



GEORGE JABBOUR: Bridgend and Porthcawl's Hope for Change

CANDIDATE'S BID TO SAVE BRIDGEND TOWN



A series of measures must be implemented immediately in a last attempt to turn around the fortunes of Bridgend town centre before it is too late.

Supported by local traders, George Jabbour, who is standing in the Welsh Assembly election for the seat of Bridgend, is challenging Bridgend County Borough Council to reverse the excessive pedestrianisation in parts of the town centre.

The proposal which gathered over 1,300 signatures would allow vehicles to go through Queen Street, Dunraven Place and Market Street on the periphery of Bridgend town centre.

In addition, the Conservative candidate is urging BCBC to add more parking spaces and reduce parking charges.

George, who is facing First Minister Carwyn Jones in May, commented: "It is heart-breaking to see our town centre dying before our eyes. It is essential that a number of policies that would make it easier for shoppers to come and spend more of their money in Bridgend are introduced to reverse the decline of our town."

Study to return Porthcawl rail links



George Jabbour is campaigning for a study to look into the possibility of bringing the railway back to Porthcawl.

George, whose background is in engineering and investment, commented: "Porthcawl is a major tourist destination and it is vital it has proper transport links with other towns and cities

across Britain."

Shadow Minister for Transport, William Graham, added: "At the moment, plans for a large infrastructure metro project, which would cover the Cardiff area and go as far as Bridgend, are being finalised. It is very important that Porthcawl doesn't miss out on this massive infrastructure project."

George's background in engineering and investment equips him with the skills needed to deal with the challenges facing our community



This 4-page wrap has been funded by voluntary donations to Bridgend Conservatives.

GEORGE JABBOUR: Bridgend and Porthcawl's Hope for Change



A CHAMPION FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



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Porthcawl 'watchers' are ready for summer

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'UNDER-STRENGTH WALES LEARN LESSONS'

GARETH JAMIESON - PAGE 36

The Princess of Wales Family Rooms refurbished by charity

2 WISH UPON A STAR DEDICATE OPENING TO MEMORY OF ELIZABETH AND THOMAS KIRWAN

WELSH charity '2 Wish Upon A Star' has opened two refurbished family bereavement rooms at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

The rooms are designed to give families a private and comforting space where loved ones can wait for news and, when necessary, be together to say their final

goodbyes.

The opening was dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth and Thomas Kirwan.

Elizabeth Kirwan gave birth to her son, Thomas in December, 2013.

However, after a health condition, Thomas sadly died two months later.

Tragically, just over a year later, Elizabeth herself was found unconscious at her

home after suffering a cardiac arrest and later died at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff. She was 34.

After her death, Elizabeth's parents, Julian and Sian Ashton, contacted 2 Wish Upon A Star, asking if they could help raise money for the charity. They set up Team Liz and organised several fundraising events, raising over £9,000.

Elizabeth's father Julian Ashton spoke of the support he received and how he wanted to ensure it was available for others: "No one can prepare themselves for the shattering news we received when two WPCs knocked on our door on the evening of April 19, 2015 informing us that our beautiful daughter, Elizabeth, had suddenly passed away.

"On arrival at UHW we were escorted

through A&E along a crowded, seemingly never-ending corridor, into a calm, peaceful area leading to a private room. The care, concern and respect we received gave us strength to spend time with our Liz in privacy, while supported by sensitive professionals.

"It was only when we sat with family in the comfortable lounge area that we noticed the plaque on the wall stating that the room had been set up and funded by the charity 2

Wish Upon A Star. It was a blessing.

"We decided that we wanted to help raise funds for 2 Wish Upon A Star, so that a family room like the one we needed in UHW could be placed in our local hospital, the Princess of Wales in Bridgend.

"Along with some family friends we set up Team Liz to participate in the 2015 Cardiff Half Marathon.

"There was no hesitation with regard to what charity to support - 2 Wish Upon A Star

was the first in line. We are indebted to all who participated and want to thank everyone who ran in the Cardiff Half Marathon or donated to this very worthy cause."

Speaking of the room opening, 2 Wish Upon A Star founder, Rhian Burke, said: "Every family deserves the right to privacy and peace during the worst moments of their lives.

"Sadly this is lacking across much of Wales, but we're working hard to address the issue. The family bereavement rooms are situated in the Accident and Emergency departments and our aim is to have one in every hospital across Wales.

"The rooms are painted in comforting colours and furnished so not to feel too clinical. They are fitted with tea and coffee making facilities, as well as toys for children to use.

"Essentially, the rooms also contain literature that families can take away with them, directing them to all the available support they will need as they begin the grieving process."

2 Wish Upon A Star now works with 14 of the 15 emergency units across Wales and has supported over 50 families.

For more information about 2 Wish Upon A Star, visit: www.2wishuponastar.org.



From left: Assistant general manager for A&E Lesley Hopkins, Julian Ashton, Sian Ashton, and '2 Wish Upon A Star' founder Rhian Burke.

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NFU Mutual agent Julian to ride over Rockies for Velindre

IN his continuing support for Velindre Cancer Centre in Cardiff, Julian Kelly, agent at NFU Mutual in Bridgend, will be attempting the next 'Captain's Challenge' in September 2016, the 'Ride The Rockies' event.

Julian explained: "We will be cycling 405km from Canmore to Jasper following the spectacular Icefields Parkway.

"It is described as a rite of passage for touring cyclists through one of the most extravagantly beautiful ranges on earth.

"We will pass many mountain lakes, ancient glaciers and broad sweeping

valleys.

"The route really is spectacular and has been described by National Geographic Traveller as 'A highway strung from the stars'.

"To launch the fundraising toward this challenge, Canada Lakes Lodge, at Creigiau, Cardiff, kindly loaned their facilities for a 'Belated Burns Night Celebration' on the eve of the Wales v Scotland Rugby Six Nations match.

"Everyone there enjoyed a truly Celtic-themed evening of music, food, dance and competitions - raising £5,000 towards this amazing charity."

If you would like to sponsor Julian on this mammoth attempt to Ride The Rockies, log on to mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/juliankel lybikeride2.



EX-PUPIL DONATES £1,000 TO HIS OLD PRIMARY SCHOOL

CEFN CRIBWR Primary School is trying to raise £10,000 to renovate an old school building into a soft sensory play area to give the special needs pupils a safe place for recreational development.

Hopefully, it will also offer sound and light pods for pupils who have global delay problems.

Gareth Williams, a pupil at Cefn Cribwr Primary School 27 years ago who attended the observation unit at the age of five and Mr Tony Williams of Camplas Technology, have donated £1,000 to the appeal.

The school also thanks the following for their donations:

Nolan Recycling - £500; Cefn Cribwr RFC Grunters - £350; Amberwell Engineering - £200; Project Tile and Bathrooms - £100; Pishah Chapel - £100; Maid of Sker Lodge - £100; The Farmers Arms Quiz - £315; Venables Lodge - £100; Pencoe Buffs - £100; Cefn Cribwr Sports and Social Club - £100; Colour Foto - £230; Steve Richmond Carpets - £50; Apollo Teaching - £100; Jim Childs - £50; Eric Butler - £50; Mr and Mrs Froley - £100; Mr Reynolds - £100; Mike and Carol Kelly - £200.

Motorcycle club is helping Geraint



MEMBERS of the Rusty Sprocket Motorcycle Club, which has members from all over south Wales have been raising money, delivering Easter eggs and helping raise awareness for young Geraint Richards from Tondur.

At the age of 11, Geraint suffered a near fatal asthma attack on the way home from school which has left him severely brain damaged and almost completely paralysed.

Geraint has been undergoing treatment and there is hope that his condition could improve.

The Easter Bunny Bikers with eggs

donated by Tesco and local businessman Malcolm Gaskell, visited the children's wards at The Princess of Wales and the University Hospital to brighten up the bank holiday weekend for the young ones who had to stay in over Easter.

The bikers held a party night with live music on Easter Sunday and a music festival is planned for the last weekend in June, to raise money to help make Geraint's life a little easier and go towards further specialist treatment.

The club has a website www.rustysprocketcycle.co.uk and can be found on Facebook.

Who wants to build what and where?

ASDA Stores Ltd - Land to rear of ASDA Stores, Horseshoe Road, Coychurch, Waterton Industrial Estate, Bridgend - Various condition no 5 of P/02/607/FUL.

Mrs Rosemarie Whittle - 27 Gelli Aur, Pencoe, Bridgend - Remove branches overhanging highway and reduce height of silver birch and oak.

Mole Valley Farmers Ltd - Unit C5, Vicarage, Workspace Centre, North Road, Bridgend Industrial Estate - Seven fascia signs.

Mr Marc Williams - 35 Heol Croes Faen, Nottage, Porthcawl - Extension to domestic garage.

Persimmon Homes West Wales - Parcels R21 and R22, Parc Derwen, Coity, Bridgend - Non-material amendment to P/15/569/RES - Changes to plots 1-2, 62-63, 66, 102-104, 133-135.

Ms D Gallagher - 19 Rhodfa Cnocell Y Coed, Broadlands, Bridgend - Proposed porch.

Mrs Y Bowditch - Plot 14, Abergarw Farm, Brynmynyn - Proposed dwelling.

Bridgend Town Council - Carnegie House, Wyndham Street, Bridgend - Construct black metal archway with name and logos; notice boards in black metal and glazed.

Mr Viv Hughes - Land north of Abergarw Farm, New Road, Brynmynyn - Approval of details for conditions 12 and 17 of P/14/742/OUT.

Mr MW and Mrs HR Leigh - 21 Tan Y Bryn, Pencoe - Two storey extension to side and rear and provision of two additional parking spaces.

Ward Jones Bridgend - Mr M Tabor - 16 Exchange Street, Maesteg - Dormer extension to rear to provide a bedroom and ensuite and front porch.

Mr VS Hughes - Plot 20, Abergarw Farm, Brynmynyn - Reserved matters for one detached five-bed dwelling at plot 20.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 7)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
31 Thur	11.54	7.9		
01 Fri	00.24	7.8	12.57	7.6
02 Sat	01.49	7.4	14.25	7.6
03 Sun	03.11	7.8	15.58	7.9
04 Mon	04.31	8.4	16.54	8.6
05 Tues	05.27	9.2	17.55	9.4
06 Wed	06.18	9.9	18.43	10.1
07 Thur	07.15	10.4	19.28	10.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

'BCBC needs to plan for cat litter waste problem'

WHETHER drafted BCBC's response to questions about the changes to the refuse collection service obviously has no clue about cat litter.

The suggestion that animal waste, (surely not cat litter) could be disposed of down the loo would have every sewer in the borough blocked within weeks - never mind the toilets of any people mad enough to follow this

suggestion.

I am sure Welsh water would have plenty to say on this if the council were to consult them!

While I am sure most cat owners, including myself, scoop up the cat faeces that sit on top of the litter and flush them away, the actual urine-impregnated litter has to be placed in a black bag - usually on its own as it is so smelly. It is certainly not recyclable so people have no choice but to put it out with their

other waste.

I have just one cat and I fill at least four bags with cat litter in a fortnight. Although these bags are not full, they have to be sealed up because they are so noxious.

I suppose we could put all these bags into one larger bag but that would still mean cat owners would have to use up half of their waste allowance under the two bags a fortnight rule simply on cat litter, leaving just one bag for everything else. This is not do-able for all but a very small minority.

The council needs to go back to the drawing board and come up with realistic proposals to deal with this important matter.

Perhaps they could issue special, coloured bags to cat owners which people could apply for. Yes, it would mean more work for the council but, as they will be massively reducing their on-going refuse collection costs by restricting the tonnage collected for landfill, they must be prepared to shoulder the administrative costs of setting up and administering the new scheme properly if it is to have a fighting chance of success.

Jayne Isaac, Maesteg.

Air cadets celebrate affiliation with RBL

THE 2347 (Porthcawl) Squadron Air Cadets cemented their strong link with their local branch of the Royal British Legion, by gaining affiliated unit status.

This allows the members of both units to work together on fundraising projects, promoting mutual support and community involvement.

Members of the Porthcawl branch of the Legion joined the Air Cadets at their squadron headquarters at Nottage, Porthcawl for a formal exchange of certificates presented by Lt/Col S t e v e

Rock, branch president, followed with a few words from 3 Welsh Wing Commanding Officer, Wing Commander M Stones 3 and Mr Allan Lloyd, chairman of the local branch of the RBL.

Afterwards, cadets and Legion members had the opportunity to learn more about each other over tea and cake, with cadets explaining everything from shoe polishing techniques to drill commands, and Legion members regaling cadets with tales of their military activities.

The Cadets parade between 7pm and 9pm on Tuesdays and Fridays; more information can be found on www.aircadets.org.

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The watchers are ready for summer!

VOLUNTEERS with the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) will be starting weekend watches from the Old Pilot Lookout Tower in Porthcawl this summer.

Coastwatch volunteers were handed the keys to the building this week, after its transfer from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) was confirmed.

The trained NCI volunteers will be manning the tower – initially on weekends only – to help spot danger so that amateur sailors and fishermen can stay safe.

Heritage Lottery Funding, together with contributions from BCBC, Cadw and the NCI has helped to restore the grade II listed building through the Porthcawl Townscape Heritage Initiative.

Originally built around 150 years ago, the Old Pilot Lookout Tower has been given replacement windows, doors and roofing, while the external staircase has also been renewed.

Coun Charles Smith, BCBC's cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said: "The restoration of this historic waterfront building complements the exciting work planned for the nearby Jennings Building and Customs House, and is another important step in Porthcawl's overall regeneration."

"Not only did we want to restore the Old Pilot Lookout Tower, but we wanted to bring it back into use, so I'm delighted that we have now handed the building over to the National Coastwatch



The trained NCI volunteers will be manning the tower to help spot danger so that amateur sailors and fishermen can stay safe.

volunteers, so that they can make the necessary preparations ahead of the summer season."

The NCI say they have received fantastic support from the local community, and 90 per cent of the 25 volunteers are from Porthcawl.

Station manager Phillip Jones said: "We'll be kitting out the station with a range of equipment to enable us to conduct both offshore and onshore surveillance to help keep users of the coastline safe, and we'll be reporting back to the Milford Haven Coastguard."

"We've been in training now for a while and we're looking forward to running watches on weekends to begin with, up until 8pm in the evening, and eventually as more watch-keepers become qualified we'll be operational every day of the year – including Christmas Day."

Established in 1994, the National Coastwatch Institution operates nearly 50 stations across the UK and to find out more visit www.nci.org.uk.



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PACT meetings

SARN/BRYNCOCH PACT on Monday, April 4 at Sarn Life Centre at 7pm.

BRYNCETHIN PACT on Wednesday, April 6 at Nazareth Chapel at 6pm.

LLANGEINOR PACT on Wednesday, April 13 at the Richard Price Centre at 5.30pm.

CAERAU PACT on Monday, April 25 at Noddfa Chapel at 6pm.

ABERKENFIG/PENYFAI PACT on Monday, April 25 at Smyrna Chapel at 7pm.

LLANGYNWYD PACT on Tuesday, April 26 at Llangynwyd Village Hall at 10am.

PYLE/CEFN CRIBWR/CORNELLY PACT on Thursday, April 29 at Pyle Life Centre at 6.30pm.

Litchard, Pendre and Coity PACT at Litchard Mission, Litchard on Thursday, March 31 at 4.30pm.

NEWTON PACT at Newton school rooms, Newton on Tuesday, April 12 at 6.30pm.

PORHCRAWL EAST CENTRAL PACT at Porthcawl Fire Station, Porthcawl on Tuesday, April 12 at 6.30pm.

MORFA TOWN PACT at Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street on Monday, April 18 at 6.30pm.

REST BAY and NOTTAGE PACT at Nottage Scout Hall, Nottage on Tuesday, April 26 at 8pm.

BRACKLA PACT at Brackla Junior School, Brackla Way, Thursday, April 28 at 6.30pm.

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Volunteers from the National Coastwatch Institution have been handed the keys to the Old Pilot Lookout Tower in Porthcawl.



Foster carers are honoured for their dedicated service



Clive and Gillian Finch with the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Richard Young, and John and Patricia Bevan.

TWO of Bridgend County Borough Council's fostering families have been presented with a Mayor's Citizenship Award for their services to fostering.

Between the two families, they have a combined 78 years of providing foster placements to vulnerable children and young people.

Patricia and John Bevan are nearing a milestone, celebrating their 40th year of fostering. In that time, they have provided a safe, stable and loving home for what's estimated to be around 100 babies, children and young people.

John Bevan said: "We really enjoy being foster carers. It's not always plain sailing but nothing satisfies us more than seeing the children in our care making progress and ultimately achieve long-term stability and happiness."

Clive and Gillian Finch have been approved as foster carers since 1977, giving them 38 years of fostering experience.

Never giving up on young people, the warm and friendly couple have strong family values and a commitment to ensure

that children in their care reach their full potential.

Gillian Finch commented: "We wouldn't foster if it wasn't rewarding. Watching the children develop and come out of their shell right in front of us is wonderful to see. Knowing we are making a real difference makes it all worthwhile."

The council's cabinet member responsible for

children's social services, Coun Hailey Townsend, commented on the accolades: "Both fostering families deserve this recognition. Acquiring nearly 40 years' of fostering experience each is a huge achievement and should be applauded."

Coun Townsend added: "If you've already considered becoming a foster carer, or your

interest is new, contact the fostering team who will be able to provide information and answer queries."

If you think fostering could be for you then further information is available at

www.bridgendfostercare.wales or alternatively, contact the fostering team (01656) 642674.

Defibrillator in bus station



BRIDGEND Town Council has supplied the funding for defibrillator equipment to be housed in the Information Office at Bridgend bus station and it is now operational.

Only three per cent of people who suffer a sudden cardiac arrest outside hospital survive the situation. Not all deaths are preventable, but some of them could be, thanks to defibrillators in public places.

Coun David Unwin (above right), finance chairman, presented the equipment to Tony Bradshaw, the bus station manager who confirmed that all his staff are trained in the use of the equipment.



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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School

I WOULD like to congratulate Anwen Angharad and the volunteers of the Porthcawl Ukulele Band, Archbishop McGrath Jazz Group and Ogmore Valley Male Choir for the diverse musical entertainment they provided in the Mayor of Bridgend, Coun Richard Young's concert.

It raised funds for the charities: Mental Health Matters Wales – Bridgend; Guy Chappell Cardio-Respiratory Unit, PoW Hospital; Bridge mentoring scheme; Ysgol Bryn Castell for children with special education needs.

The concert started with the lively, popular music of the 50s and 60s from the Porthcawl Ukulele Band, followed by Anwen Angharad who sang two contrasting songs 'Cifan y Coed' by Rhys Jones and 'Deh Vienni' by Mozart.

The jazz group then provided contrasting music under the guidance of the school's musical teacher Glyn Price. I have heard pupils under Mr Price's guidance over the years, and he certainly knows how to get the best out of them. The pupils will certainly miss his guidance when he retires at the end of the year.

The second half of the concert started with the Ogmore Valley Male Choir under its conductor for the evening, Phil Davies, accompanied by pianist Gareth Waite, singing a mixture of Welsh and English songs, and encouraging the audience to join in. The concert ended with music and songs by the Porthcawl Ukulele Band and, of course, the Welsh national anthem.

On Wednesday, April 13 from 7pm to 10.30pm there is a 'Social Evening with a Difference' at the Heronstone Hotel, in aid of the Mayor's charity appeal starring Ahnuh Valentine the Bridgend girl singer and songwriter. A light buffet is included.

Welsh Young Singer of the Year

BRIDGEND is fortunate that residents take so much interest in music. Next Saturday, April 2, the above competition is staged at Maesteg Town Hall.

Doors open 5.45pm and competition starts at 6.30pm.

The finalists in the junior section (aged 11 to 14): Tom Herbert (Ysgol Llangynwyd), Elys Davies (Porthcawl), Carys Davies (Haberdaethers, Monmouth), Matthew Daly (Bryntirion).

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



The finalists in the junior section (aged 15 to 18): Llinos Haf Jones (Ysgol Bro Morgannwg), Jodi Bird (Ysgol Bro Morgannwg), Lowri Probert (Crickhowell), Matthew Welch (Cheltenham).

The finalists in the adult section (19 to 30) are: Alys Roberts (soprano – Crickieth), Robert Lewis (tenor – Welshpool), Eirlys Myfanwy Davies (mezzo – Llanelli); reserve Meilir Jones (baritone).

The adjudicators are Rebecca Evans, Gary Griffiths, the Welsh baritone, and Anthony Gabrielle conductor of international orchestras.

The event is organised by the Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir and sponsored by Dunraven Windows Ltd.

The Gleemen rehearse in the British Legion Club, Commercial Street, Maesteg on Monday and Thursday evenings from 7pm to 8.30pm. Visitors and new members are most welcome.

Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute

THE members of Aberkenfig and District WI are looking forward to a summer full of interesting outings and speakers.

The first is at the next meeting of the Institute on Wednesday, April 13 when the speaker will be Caryl Mai Hughes from the National Assembly for Wales Outreach Team, who will be explaining exactly how the Assembly works and what powers it has.

The competition will be for a Royal Mug. On June 28 there is the midsummer dinner and musical evening in the Orangery at Margam Park and on July 23 there is the Glamorgan Show in North Connelly, a must for all literary or artistically inclined ladies.

Aberkenfig and District WI meet on the second Wednesday of each month (except August) at 2pm in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig. Visitors and new members are always made very welcome.

For further information call Dilys on 01656 725399, visit www.cobwebs.com, or www.facebook.com/Aberkenfigwomen's institute.

Cor Meibion Maesteg A'r Cylch

MAESTEG and

District male voice choir is looking for an assistant accompanist to support the choir during rehearsals and various events.

It will be helpful if the accompanist is able to sight read music. The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 9pm.

For further information contact the secretary Nigel Williams, on 07847 282614 or Gerwyn Thomas 01656 735305 or e-mail cormaesteg@talktalk.net

Laleston Garden Club

THE club meets at Cliff Cottage, High Street, adjacent to the parish church and has a thriving ladies' section which meets on the first and third Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm.

At the next meeting on April 11 there will be a practical demonstration on how to plant up hanging baskets and window boxes by Kevin Thomas.

Visitors and new members will be made most welcome.

St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill

ON Thursday, April 21 there will be a concert titled 'Swing into Spring' featuring Bridgend Swing Band and vocalists providing entertainment with the music of Benny Goodman, Count Basie, Duke Ellington and Glenn Miller from the 1930s and 40s.

The doors open at 7pm and it starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £6 are available from Theo's Charity Shop, Bridge Street, Kenfig Hill or by telephoning 01656 742703 or 01656 665547.

Cefn Cribwr Community Centre (Green Hall)

ON Friday, April 8 there will be a ladies pamper evening from 6pm to 9pm at which they will be able to enjoy a facial, manicure or massage.

All money raised will go towards a new sensory room for children with special needs at Cefn Cribwr primary school.

Teddy Bears' picnic

AT Café Mi-Mi's play café on Wednesday, April 6 from 12pm to 3pm there will be a free picnic provided, but children must bring a teddy bear and a blanket. Children must be accompanied by an

adult at all times.

There will be a number of activities taking place, such as teddy bear crafts, including designing one's own bear, a pyjama drama workshop and there will be a prize for the best-dressed teddy bear.

Please advise of any special dietary requirements. This is open to all residents who live in a Communities First residential area, proof is required.

To book a place call Lisa on 01656 642619 or 07792 663645.

Mayor of Maesteg's charity event

THE second Mayor's charity event is in the Maesteg Workingmen's Club, Temple Street, on Friday, April 8. It's a murder mystery play in two acts, after which you will have the opportunity to work out who the murderer is from the clues given by the actors during the play.

Tickets are priced at £8 to include a buffet, and are available from Maesteg Council Offices, Lizzy's Candy Talbot Street, or by calling 01656 735988.

Horeb Chapel, Nantymoel

THE last remaining religious establishment at the top of the Ogmore Valley is in Dinam Close, Nantymoel, CF32 7PU.

On Thursday, April 7 at 6pm, there is a special service by GPA Director of Evangelism and Missions Dr Dennis Petty from the USA, who has a down-to-earth preaching style.



Archbishop McGrath jazz group, with Glyn Price (far right).

'Lack of self-belief is holding Welsh students back' – says ambassador

A JOURNALIST and broadcaster who went to Porthcawl Comprehensive School is one of the latest people to lend their support to an exclusive network aimed at helping Wales's brightest school pupils go to the best universities in the UK.

Caroline Sarll is sharing her experience of attending Oxford University as part of a drive by the Seren Network to encourage former graduates of top institutions to inspire a new generation of Welsh learners.

Set up by the Welsh Government last year, the Seren Network follows a report by Oxbridge Ambassador, Lord Paul Murphy, former MP for Torfaen, who was appointed by the Welsh Government to examine the decline in Welsh

applications and admissions to Oxbridge.

Lord Murphy's report recommended that a national network of partnership hubs be set up across Wales to allow schools and colleges to share expertise and work directly with leading universities.

The network now comprises more than 2,000 high-achieving sixth-formers from schools across Wales, each of whom has access to ongoing support and activities to link them with top universities.

And Seren is now enlisting the support of 'Alumni Ambassadors', including Caroline, who'll support the network in inspiring Wales's brightest young people.

Caroline, who went on to become a producer and reporter at the BBC after studying a postgraduate degree in education at Oxford's Lincoln College, said: "I fell in love with the university



Caroline Sarll

the moment I went up for interview. It had such gravitas and the worldwide reputation of being steeped in academic achievements.

"There was something incredible about walking the same hallways and sitting in the same time, a lack of information for parents and young people as to what is required to reach the top.

"There can be a noticeable diffidence among Welsh youngsters, who often don't bother applying because they don't believe they will get a place. It is therefore vital that informed support is available to make all high-achieving pupils aware that these top league universities are within their grasp and to offer advice on the often daunting application process."

Caroline credits her time at Oxford as the gateway to her career as a successful journalist, having since written for numerous national titles and for many years working as a producer and reporter for BBC Radio 4.

She said: "I had always wanted to write and, even though I was studying for a degree in education at the time, the confidence instilled in me by my surroundings inspired me to take writing and journalism seriously. I joined the student radio station in my first term and I entered a BBC Radio One student radio competition, which I went on to win in the

documentary category. At the end of my year at Oxford I applied to the BBC and that is when I landed my first job as a temporary researcher."

One of Caroline's daughters, Madeleine, has followed in her footsteps and is enjoying her first year at Oxford studying German, but Caroline is convinced that more needs to be done to support young people in Wales in getting into the UK's top universities.

She said: "There really does need to be a concerted effort between schools, parents and the students themselves to access the Sutton Trust universities. There has been a lack of support in schools and, at the same time, a lack of information for parents and young people as to what is required to reach the top.

"There can be a noticeable diffidence among Welsh youngsters, who often don't bother applying because they don't believe they will get a place. It is therefore vital that informed support is available to make all high-achieving pupils aware that these top league universities are within their grasp and to offer advice on the often daunting application process."

Caroline is now backing The Seren Network's drive to recruit further Alumni Ambassadors to support the network by sharing their knowledge and expertise with Welsh pupils.

"A network like this didn't exist when I was at school, but it's a brilliant opportunity for current students", she said.

To find out more about being a Seren Alumni Ambassador and to sign up, visit hwb.wales.gov.uk/seren.

Soroptimists' hold Easter celebration

ON Wednesday, March 23, Bridgend Soroptimists met at the Heronston Hotel for a celebratory Easter lunch.

President Bethan was delighted to welcome a new member, April May, to the club and also presented long service certificates to 14 members, ranging from 25 to 50 years, a cumulative total of 514 years service to Soroptimist International.

An excellent lunch was enjoyed by all and Pat Johnson from Colwinston enchanted everyone with her amazing display of felting garments and accessories (each one unique), which she designs and makes herself locally.

More information on Soroptimist activities can be found at www.sigbi.org/Bridgend.



President Bethan (right) welcomes April May to Bridgend Club.

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Plaid Cymru selects its Parliamentary candidate for Ogmore by-election



PLAID Cymru – The Party of Wales has selected Abi Thomas to be its candidate in the Parliamentary by-election in the Ogmore constituency.

The selection hustings was held in the Railway Inn, Llangynwyd, with a packed delegation of Ogmore members on March 21.

Abi Thomas formerly worked in a number of universities across Wales with a background in business development and marketing.

She said that her priorities for Ogmore were to improve local NHS services, fight against unfair welfare reform, and improve transport links across the valleys.

She added: "I am delighted to have been unanimously selected to represent Plaid Cymru in the Ogmore constituency by-election."

by-election. "It will be a privilege to fight for the people of Ogmore and to give our communities the strongest voice possible in Westminster."

Plaid's Assembly candidate for Ogmore, Tim Thomas added: "For over 17 years the people of Ogmore have had Labour representation – for most of this period at both ends of the M4."

"It is clear to me that the Labour Party have become tired, complacent and are taking people for granted."

"On May 5, people in Ogmore will have a choice between the status quo, and Plaid Cymru's three ambitions for a well Wales, a well-educated Wales and a wealthier Wales."

"I am really pleased that local members have selected Abi, who I know will help me deliver the change Ogmore needs."

Porthcawl art exhibition



PORTHCAWL Art Society spring exhibition, was opened last Saturday by the Conservative Assembly candidate George Jabbour.

Winners on the day were: first, Ron Evans with 'Surprise Surprise'; second, Lydia Nicholson with 'Wild Flowers'; third, Robert Taylor with 'Freedom'.

The exhibition will be on display throughout April at the gallery at the Old Police Station, Johns Street, Porthcawl most days from 11am to 4pm. If you would like to join the society, come along on Wednesday between 1.30pm and 3.30pm.

'The closure of law courts is irresponsible'

MADELINE MOON MP has described the Government's decision to close dozens of law courts, including the one at Bridgend, as irresponsible.

In the Commons, the Bridgend MP said the decision was based on a flawed consultation, particularly in relation to the Bridgend Magistrates Court, which houses state-of-the-art facilities in which hundreds of thousands of pounds have been invested in repairs, modernisation and renovation.

Civil and family cases previously dealt with at Bridgend will go to Port Talbot, and criminal cases to Cardiff.

Mrs Moon told MPs: "I hope this local example will illustrate the consequences of the Government's irresponsible decision to close 86 courts and tribunals across England and Wales, as well as their total failure to understand the geography of Wales."

She said travelling between towns in south Wales is often difficult because of the topography, especially for those reliant on public transport.

People attending court will suffer increased cost and inconvenience. "The movement of these courts will cause huge problems for people's capacity to reach the new venues," she said.

"Yet again, the Government has failed to recognise the needs of the poor and the disadvantaged, particularly those who are victims or witnesses of crime, and their capacity to access the justice system."

She said that her priorities for Ogmore were to improve local NHS services, fight against unfair welfare reform, and improve transport links across the valleys.

She added: "I am delighted to have been unanimously selected to represent Plaid Cymru in the Ogmore constituency by-election."

Plaid's Assembly candidate for Ogmore, Tim Thomas added: "For over 17 years the people of Ogmore have had Labour representation – for most of this period at both ends of the M4."

"It is clear to me that the Labour Party have become tired, complacent and are taking people for granted."

Laura tackles Three Peaks

Laura McGreevy, a resident of Llanmaes village, is taking on the South Wales Three Peaks Trial on Saturday, April 2, in aid of Emmaus South Wales (The Homeless Charity that works!).

She will be accompanied by her husband Eamonn and friends Roger and Carol.

The intrepid trekkers will take on the 'Gold Route' – the most challenging of the three routes available. This is a hike of about 20 miles and 1,500 metres of ascent, which crosses over three prominent peaks around the Bloreng, Sugar Loaf and Skirrid mountains.

"I just had a very big birthday" said Laura, "so I thought it was a good time to take on a big challenge for the charity that does so much for others."

"It has been 11 weeks of intensive training, but I think I am ready. Emmaus South Wales has also just had a big milestone with the opening of the very first Emmaus Community for south Wales in Bridgend."

Emmaus was established by Abbe Pierre, a Catholic priest who opened the first community in Paris in 1949. Since then this non-religious movement has grown to include more than 400 communities worldwide. There are presently 24 communities in England and Scotland.

The very first community for South Wales was opened in early 2016 in Bridgend.

Terry Waite, CBE, is the president of Emmaus, and the Duchess of Cornwall is the Royal Patron.

The Emmaus story is really a story about 'Companions', as residents are called. The reasons for their homelessness vary; relationship breakdown, substance abuse, poverty. But all Companions share a desire and drive to have a fresh start.

At Emmaus they learn new skills, discover hidden talents and develop friendships, giving them a sense of self-worth and independence. Companions often credit Emmaus as a turning point in their lives. The point when they shifted from despair to hope.

Companions live by a few basic rules: All are expected to work to the best of their ability within the social enterprise. This may be working in one of the seven shops, driving a delivery truck or working within the community home. There is also a 'no drinks, drugs, or violence' rule.

Emmaus currently runs a number of charity shops in Bridgend, Maesteg, Neath, Porthcawl, Cowbridge and Aberdare. Laura is hoping to raise £500 for Emmaus South Wales.

If you wish to make a donation to support this vital work please visit: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/lauramcgreevy>.

Rotary Club sends Roger to work in Nepal



THE Rotary Club of Bridgend have raised £520 to assist Roger Marsh (above right), an experienced acupuncturist and head and spine specialist, to spend six weeks in Nepal to treat, heal and comfort those in need.

The money was raised by several members of the club who were sponsored to lose weight over a six week period.

Many other (less overweight members) were contributing sponsors. Roger will be visiting the club on his return from Nepal to present a talk and slide show of his experiences and memories.

COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Llangan School
ON Tuesday, March 22, the school became a hub of activity with headteacher Miss Sue Price hosting an open evening for the parents of Llangan, with displays from the PTA.

A book fair and the popular Pencil Case of Cowbridge were featured. Refreshments were available with tea, coffee and homemade cakes.

Once again, a big thank you from all the members to Anne Ellis, Barbara, Marje and Jean. In spite of the dreadful weather, everyone was in high spirits and were determined to enjoy themselves.

Go to the The GEM for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

OCCUPATION THERAPY WORKSHOP

A CAREERS workshop highlighting the varied roles of occupational therapists will take place in Bridgend next month.

The event will explain the training involved and the different fields that occupational therapists work in – including mental health, learning disabilities, neurology and oncology.

It will be held in seminar room 3 of the Multi-Professional Education Centre at Princess of Wales Hospital on Tuesday, April 12. The session will run from 1.30pm to 4.15pm.

To reserve a space, email jane.martin@wales.nhs.uk.

Pupils learn all about enterprise



YEAR-6 pupils at St Clare's School, Porthcawl recently did a roaring trade with their home-made cakes and Easter treats.

It was all part of their enterprise programme, which enables pupils to work in small teams to set up and run a business. The pupils are currently raising the capital to set up their business.

Simon Antwis, headmaster at St Clare's said: "We are really proud of our enterprise pupils. They develop key skills they need not only for the world of work but for day to day life, such as the ability to work in a team, willingness to take responsibility and show initiative. They have to learn to compromise and listen to each other."

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Board says 'no loss of primary dental care in Barry'... but Plaid angry at lack of consultation



Councillors Ian Johnson and Steffan William at Barry Hospital.

CARDIFF and Vale University Health Board has emphasised there will be no loss of primary dental care in Barry. The board's statement follows claims by local Plaid Cymru councillors that a loss of dental services at Barry Hospital had not been discussed with health watchdog, the Community Health Council, prior to 3,000 patients being advised to contact alternative dentists.

The board says a tender process is under way and the new arrangements will be communicated widely to people in Barry once completed.

Prior to the board's comments, Coun Johnson, who is Plaid's Assembly candidate, told The GEM: "The health board led by Maria Battle clearly stated that the board had 'consulted with the Cardiff and Vale Community Health Care on the proposals and gained their support for the process'.

"We have now been told in no uncertain terms by the Community Health Council that this statement is inaccurate and only now are top level discussions under way with the health board.

"It is dreadful the way the health board is behaving. Thousands of patients have been forced to make alternative arrangements. The board failed to consult the public or the health watchdog."

Fellow Plaid Councillor Steffan William said: "The Community Health Council is there to speak up for patients. It seems the board has no respect for either patients or the official watchdog."

Plaid says it does not believe the health boards are fit for purpose. They say they are expensive and wasteful and would replace the seven boards with one strategic board.

The GEM approached Cardiff and Vale Community Health Council following Plaid's remarks, and it commented:

The Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan Community Health Council was made aware of changes to the Primary Care Dental provision at Barry Hospital following receipt of the letter informing patients of the imminent

retirement of their dentist; the CHC was sent this letter by a patient in December 2015.

Upon receipt of the letter the CHC immediately raised its concerns with the health board and received assurances that further discussions and engagement would take place early in the New Year. Unfortunately, the CHC was made aware of the situation when we were contacted by a concerned patient in February following a freedom of information request to the health board which stated "the CHC had been engaged and agreed to the process being followed".

Stephen Allen, Chief Officer of the Community Health Council, added: "It was disappointing that the health board did not engage with us early in the New Year as indicated, and incorrectly indicated our support in its reply to the Freedom of Information request".

He went on: "The Primary, Community and Intermediate Clinical Board who has responsibility for this service had now apologised for the FOI inaccuracy and oversight in engaging with the CHC on this issue".

Mr Allen added that the issue was due to be discussed last Thursday, March 24, at the CHC Primary Care Oversight, Scrutiny and Performance Group (OSPG) "where a way forward would be agreed between the CHC and health board".

The GEM put Plaid and the CHC's statements to the health board and asked if it would like to respond.

Clare Evans, head of primary care services at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board said: "The health board would like to reiterate that there is no loss to primary care dental provision in Barry and the same contract will be delivered by two dental practices in the area.

"This has been provided on a temporary basis while the tender process is under way and the new arrangements will be communicated widely to the Barry area once the tender process has been completed.

"Prior to the end of the Barry Hospital dental contract, all patients who had been treated in the previous 24 months were written to by the practice informing them of the temporary interim arrangements up to the March 31 2016. The community dental service for vulnerable patients will however continue to operate from Barry Hospital.

"We are engaging with the Community Health Council to ensure that the public are aware of the changes to primary care dental provision in the area."

372 (BARRY) SQUADRON IS THRILLED TO MEET TOP 'RED ARROWS' PILOTS



The Squadron with Flight Lieutenants Mike Bowden and Stu Campbell of the Red Arrows.



Cadet Rhian Horton with Stu Campbell and Mike Bowden.

RECENTLY, Air Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron met two pilots from the world famous Red Arrows aerobatic display team at the University of South Wales.

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Cardiff branch organised the visit and a presentation from two pilots from The Red Arrows - Flight Lieutenant Mike Bowden (Red 4) and Flight Lieutenant Stu Campbell (Red 8).

Both pilots gave a fascinating insight into their flying careers with the Royal Air Force and the various fast jet aircraft they have flown.

Mike also spoke about the selection process to become a Red Arrow pilot; the rigorous winter training programme to prepare for the forthcoming air display season; and what it is like to fly the Hawk T1 aircraft while pulling 7G (where the human body weighs seven times its normal weight); often at 400 knots, sometimes just six feet apart from the next aircraft. The way both pilots spoke passionately about life in the Red Arrows captured the imagination of the entire audience.

The Red Arrows, has been displaying since 1965; with a trademark combination of close formation precision flying, and is considered to be the premier aerobatic team in the world.

The team is made up of more than 120 people, including pilots, engineers and essential support staff and they are based at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire.

The team has a number of important

roles including: supporting UK industry and commerce, to demonstrate excellence, precision and the best of British; to showcase the professionalism of the Armed Forces - their capability, innovation and adaptation; to carry out defence diplomacy overseas, providing vital support for UK industry, to be global ambassadors for the Royal Air Force, Armed Forces and the UK, and to aid recruitment into the Armed Forces.

The Cadets were eager to ask many questions after the presentation and to have their photographs taken with both Mike and Stu, who were both keen to oblige.

The Cadets who attended the presentation were: James Jelinski, Alex Wilton, Rhian and Rhys Horton, Zena Poulakis, Tash Gill, Sam Smith, Jenna Day, Nathan Thompson, Alex Cheeseley, Dan Broadband and Shannon Stait.

The Cadets now return to an action-packed training programme of flying, gliding, shooting, team building exercises, sport, adventurous training and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 Squadron welcomes all young men and women between 12 (in school year 8) -17 years old. The Squadron parades at 5th Barry Scouts on Everard Street, Barry. Monday evening 7:30pm - 9:30pm and Wednesday evening 7pm - 9:30pm. You can also contact the Squadron on 07486 501864, email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit us at www.372squadron.org for more information about becoming an Air Cadet.

JASON HORTON



St Augustine's marks its 150th anniversary

ST AUGUSTINE'S Church in Penarth is going to be 150 years old this year and there will be a number of events to mark the occasion.

The first will be a talk entitled 'The Building of St Augustine's' by Alan Thorne on Saturday, April 9 (2.30pm) in the parish hall, Albert Road, Penarth.

Other plans include a flower festival over the weekend of June 11-12.

To mark the actual date of the anniversary, there will be a special service on September 11.

The speed with which St Augustine's was built was remarkable; on June 8, 1865 the foundation stone was laid and the church was dedicated 15 months later on September 11, 1866.

An account of the dedication gives a glimpse into how people felt about their new, very imposing church which towered above the 'village' of Penarth.

The 'new' church, designed by William Butterfield, a Gothic Revival architect, replaced the old medieval church.

The church, given to



the parish by Lady Windsor, cost £10,000 and was built to cater for the expanding population in Penarth caused by the building of Penarth Docks.

One hundred and fifty years on, St Augustine's

is still serving the local community with enthusiasm and commitment. The congregation is somewhat smaller, but there is still a sense of real community and welcome.

The church attracts many visitors who come to see its wonderful polychromatic interior, the arts and crafts roll of honour and Joseph Parry's grave.

If anyone has any information or photographs that could be used in an exhibition that is being arranged, please contact Tricia Griffiths on 02920 707828 or email: triciagriffiths65@yahoo.co.uk

Tricia Griffiths

Councillor's Easter visit to hostel

A BARRY councillor dropped in with some goodies to a hostel over the Easter break.

Independent Coun Richard Bertin popped into the Llamau John Rowley hostel for teenagers to present some Easter eggs in the town.

Youth worker Addy Gratton was on hand to receive the gifts.

Coun Bertin said: "It is always a pleasure to support this hostel which is located within my ward.

"These young people are always grateful whenever I drop in to see them."

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Petition opposes latest plan for open cast site

THE local authorities of Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot have failed to achieve restoration of the Park Slip Margam Site for almost eight years.

They are on the verge of accepting what we believe is an unsafe and inadequate alternative to restoration.

We urgently need the government to take on the responsibility of ensuring the promised restoration of this site and so an online petition has been set up asking Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister, to secure the full promised restoration of Park Slip Margam opencast coal site.

To view and sign the petition use the link <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/secure-the-full-promised-restoration-of-park-slip-margam-opencast-coal-site>.

Objections to the plans being considered for the alternative restoration of the site can be sent in until they are decided in May: (P/16/128/FUL Bridgend; P/2016/0078 Neath Port Talbot). Readers can email: planning@bridgend.gov.uk; planning@npt.gov.uk; or go to online planning website 'Planning applications search' at Bridgend or NPTCBC; or by post to Development Control, Level 3 Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB; NPT East Team, Planning, The Quays, SA112GG, or phone Bridgend 01656 643643; NPT 01639 686737.

The alternative plans will insert a drain into the flooded



Aerial photo of the opencast site March 2016.

void to maintain the depth at over 108 metres, which will be the deepest 'lake' in England and Wales – in our opinion a dangerous, cold death trap.

The onsite tips would be slightly regraded – but not lowered, have soil spread on them and grass seeded. It is planned to put the roads back as forestry tracks, not metalled as they were before and there is no guarantee that any footpaths will be reinstated.

Neath Port Talbot is limiting the restoration to the inadequate,

underfunded escrow fund of £5.8 million. Basically, the local authorities are throwing in the towel because this alternative is no restoration at all.

Jan Adamson, jkadamson@talktalk.net, Trem Y Cwm, 19 Station Road, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend, CF336EP; **Gaynor Ball,** mailto:gballuk@yahoo.co.uk; **Suzanne Decelis,** suzannedecelis2@sky.com

'REFUSE PLAN NEEDS TO BE THOUGHT THROUGH' SAYS NEWTON COUNCILLOR

NEWTON councillor Ken Watts has written to Bridgend County Borough Council's waste disposal manager for further information about the new refuse collection arrangements which have been approved by cabinet.

Coun Watts, who is a Welsh Conservative, said that while he was not opposed to the plan to reduce the number of black bags to just two per household each fortnight, he was concerned that some aspects of the new scheme may need addressing.

He said: "I am not sure if consideration has been given to larger families who will naturally generate more waste than a one-person household. The council has to consider the number of people living in a dwelling and if necessary, increase the maximum number of bags they are allowed."

"With the best will in the world, having 10 people in a house with perhaps six or seven children is bound to result in more refuse and also more recycling. We need to ensure that this is catered for."

"Similarly, cat owners tell me that they fill several black bags in a fortnight with cat litter. Is there going to be a special concession for the collection of cat litter?"

"This is not recyclable, so cat owners have no choice but to put it out with their rubbish. It has to be kept separate because of the smell and also health implications but the combined amount of litter could easily take up one of the two bags permitted, which is not fair."

"I am also concerned about the plan to make people open up any surplus black bags they take to our civic amenity sites so that staff can check that they contain nothing that can be recycled. There are health and safety implications to having people

rummaging through refuse, and I want to know if any hand sanitation or washing facilities are going to be provided plus perhaps the issue of disposable gloves to householders who are having to rummage through these bags.

Coun Watts added: "While I am all in favour of maximising the amount of waste that can be recycled, this scheme has to be carefully thought through and all the potential implications and consequences considered and properly dealt with."

WHAT'S ON - News in brief

Golf event with KPC
KPC YOUTH and Community charity is holding a golf event on Friday, June 24 at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl.

Team entry for teams of four is £140 if booked before April 30; after that, £160 per team. Entry includes coffee on arrival, golf fees and a buffet meal following the round of golf.

Gospel Service
ATTEND a Gospel service with Dr Dennis Petty from the US At Horeb Chapel on Thursday, April 7 at 6pm.

Dr Petty is the GPA Director of Evangelism and Missions. He is a veteran preacher of the Gospel, with a down-to-earth preaching style; don't miss this opportunity to hear him at Horeb Baptist Chapel, Dinam Close, Nantymoel, CF32 7PU.

Call Pastor Chris Bluto for details on 01443-675+424 (chris_bluto@yahoo.co.uk).

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Contact: Katie McCraith on 01656 838 543

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'Balancing essential work with the needs of the community'

I WOULD like to use this month's column to first of all address two issues that have garnered coverage in the local press in recent weeks, and bust a few myths that have grown from this.

The first of these is the programme of roadworks that have been taking place on the Barry Island causeway.

In the run-up to the Easter bank holiday there were three separate schemes underway, only one of which was work being undertaken by the council.

The Dwr Cymru works, which required temporary traffic lights on the causeway itself, were essential upgrades to their infrastructure.

The works to upgrade the Cosy Corner junction, being undertaken by the Waterfront consortium, represent a key stage in the construction of the new Island link road.

While the council scheme to provide an improved cycle and footpath is central to our plan to enable more people to travel to the resort in ways other than by using their cars, clearly all of these are essential works.

As a local authority the Vale of Glamorgan Council must facilitate the work of other organisations, such as utility companies. An element of disruption is inevitable with any roadworks. However, we do all we can to ensure this is kept to an absolute minimum.

Ahead of the busy Easter weekend the council took steps to ensure that the main access road to the resort was fully open. We ensured all temporary lights were removed, deployed traffic management officers at the resort, and worked with the consortium to temporarily open the new road to provide a second exit route for traffic.

It was thanks to these measures that we once again saw a busy bank holiday weekend pass without incident.

This bank holiday weekend also saw the launch of the new online booking system for the Barry Island beach huts. The new booking system is part of new management arrangements that are being put in place for the first full season for the huts.

These arrangements are another issue that has



VIEW FROM THE VALE
by Coun
NEIL MOORE
Leader of the
Vale of
Glamorgan
Council

filled column inches in recent weeks, and one where, as is often the case, the truth of the matter is far less exciting than the fiction peddled by some.

In short, after the first year's results were reviewed we had an open debate within the council about how we could get as many people as possible enjoying the huts, and ensure they covered their running costs.

After discussing this at cabinet and scrutiny meetings we have taken the decision to continue to manage the huts in-house, and are looking forward to seeing even more people enjoying them during this summer season.

Our ongoing work to attract more visitors to our resorts is one of the many ways in which the council works to help

businesses in the Vale. This month I was lucky enough to go and see the results of another.

Our Creative Rural Communities team, with the financial support of the Waterloo Foundation, has for the last two years provided bursaries to local entrepreneurs looking to set up new enterprises in the Vale. In this time the 'Inspiring the Vale' bursary scheme has helped dozens of new businesses get off the ground; one of whom is Chloe, the owner of Cobbles Kitchen and Deli in Ogmore-by-Sea.

Cobbles Kitchen has been running for three months. Judging by the number of people turning up for breakfast on the cold March morning when I visited, it is clear that she is doing well. The

bursary has helped Chloe with equipment costs, rent, and marketing, and her business is growing rapidly, with plans of expansion on the horizon.

It is rewarding to see that with just a little help and guidance, new businesses in the Vale can support themselves and become sustainable.

I'd like to close this month's column with a mention of a development that will bring benefits to businesses of all sizes across the county. On March 15, I signed the 'Heads of Terms' agreement for the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal for the Vale of Glamorgan.

My cabinet colleague Coun Lis Burnett and I had negotiated hard to ensure that the Vale will share fully in the benefits of the deal and that the Vale continues to be centre stage in the growth of south east Wales as a region.

Now that the initial process of the deal has been agreed and signed, we are both looking forward to working equally hard to make sure that this huge investment has a real impact on the lives of people in the Vale.



PICTURED: (left to right), CAVC deputy principal Kay Martin; CAVC chair of governors Geraint Evans; Jane Hutt AM; CAVC head of auto, Richard Clayden; Aston Martin head of HR Hazel Martin, CAVC principal and chief executive Mike James; CAVC vice principal Mary Kent.

Aston Martin meets future employees

AS Aston Martin prepares its new base in St Athan, Vale AM Jane Hutt and the company's head of HR, Hazel Martin, recently met young people who may help form the workforce needed to create its new crossover vehicle.

They visited Cardiff and Vale College's brand new, state of the art automotive training centre. During the visit they were taken on a tour of the new facility and spoke to students and apprentices about their training, aspirations and the opportunities that Aston Martin could offer.

Aston Martin recently unveiled plans for its new manufacturing facility in St Athan – a

manufacturing facility housed across three super-hangers – creating 750 highly skilled jobs and a wealth of wider benefits for the economy of the Vale and the wider region.

Aston Martin held its first recruitment event for the new base at the College's International Centre for Aerospace Training (ICAT) at Cardiff Airport yesterday (March 30).

Jane Hutt said: "We know we have a fantastic base of talented skilled people and the visit today has been a great opportunity to demonstrate this – speaking with students and apprentices at Cardiff and Vale College."

Hazel Martin said: "A career at Aston Martin means joining one of the world's most respected

luxury automotive brands at a time when we have ambitious plans for global growth. There are opportunities available now in a variety of business areas. We are looking to inspire and employ the most talented people to be part of the future development of Aston Martin."

Mike James, principal and chief executive of Cardiff and Vale College said: "Having Aston Martin as a key employer for our region will be a huge boost to this priority sector and for the individuals and communities in our region."

"It will provide fantastic job opportunities for our students and we look forward to supporting a future talent pipeline for this aspirational UK company."

LOCAL SCOUT TROOP VISIT THE ST ATHAN RESCUE HELICOPTER BASE



MEMBERS of the Vale Explorer Scout Unit took part in a visit to the Bristow Search and Rescue (SAR) helicopter base at St Athan Business Park recently.

They were shown the two Augusta Westland helicopters, both of which are fitted with night vision and state-of-the-art medical equipment.

The 26-strong troop received a guided tour from some of the crew at the St Athan base – Martin Hawkes, avionic engineer, Mike Ratcliffe, apprentice engineer and Sam Ware, Duty Captain.

Martin said: "It was a great pleasure to have the Vale Explorer Scout Unit visit us

here at our St Athan base. The Scouts were an enthusiastic group, keen to learn more about our work on the base. They asked lots of great questions about our tasks and had the opportunity to talk to other members of our SAR crew, including the Chief Pilot."

The base is home to two state-of-the-art SAR helicopters, operated by Bristow Helicopters Ltd, their crew and support team.

The base became fully operational last year when Bristow Helicopters Ltd took over delivery of helicopter Search and Rescue services throughout the UK on behalf of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

Regional AM slams Vale merger proposal

LOCAL residents are overwhelmingly against Welsh Government plans to abolish the Vale and merge with Cardiff, fearing that it would result in the area being ignored even more, said regional AM Andrew RT Davies.

That was the verdict of those who attended his surgery at the Duke of Wellington in Cowbridge on March 22, said Mr Davies. He organised the event to

let residents have their say on a variety of local and national issues, and the merger was by far the number one topic of conversation.

Mr Davies said: "I was delighted that so many people turned out at my surgery to express these views and it was very good of the Duke of Wellington to allow me to use it as a venue. The plans to abolish the Vale will be disastrous and it is vital that they are stopped."

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Delay to Council Tax payments

Oedi i Gasglu Taliadau Treth y Cyngor

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is advising residents that some Council Tax payments will be collected later than usual in April.

Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn hysbysu trigolion y bydd rhai taliadau Treth y Cyngor yn cael eu casglu'n hwyrach nag arfer ym mis Ebrill.

Those residents who pay their Council Tax by direct debit on the first day of each month will have their payment collected eight days later than usual on the 9th of April. No other payments will be affected.

Bydd taliad y trigolion rheiny sy'n talu Treth y Cyngor drwy ddebyd uniongyrchol ar ddiwrnod cyntaf y mis yn cael ei gasglu wyth diwrnod yn hwyrach nag arfer, ar 9 Ebrill. Ni fydd yn hyn yn cael effaith ar unrhyw daliadau eraill.

The delay in collecting payments is due to the late notification of the final Welsh Government budget settlement for the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the knock-on effect this had on setting Council Tax bills for 2016/17.

Y rheswm am yr oedi yw y daeth yr hysbysiad o ffigwr terfynol cyllideb Llywodraeth Cymru i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg yn hwyr yn y dydd, ac mi effeithiodd hyn yn ei dro ar y broses o bennu symiau biliau Treth y Cyngor ar gyfer 2016/17.

From May 2016 all direct debit payments will be taken as usual.

Bydd taliadau debyd uniongyrchol yn cael eu casglu fel arfer o fis Mai 2016 ymlaen.



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Beach clean-up near Aberthaw



FOURTEEN volunteers spent two hours picking up rubbish and plastic waste on East Aberthaw beach.

Organised by Aberthaw power station and supported by Keep Wales Tidy and the Wildlife Trust, volunteers swept the

beach for plastic litter, most of which floats into the shore with the daily tides.

"It was an amazing amount collected in a short space of time," said Amy Lavisher, environmental compliance engineer at the power station. "Marine animals and

birds can be fatally harmed by the litter and it is an ongoing problem to keep the beach clean."

The beach adjoins East Aberthaw nature reserve, owned and managed by the power station.

The site will be holding a series of accompanied walks throughout the year on the third Monday of every month between April, May, June, July and September – to introduce local residents and nature lovers to the wonders of the site's unique ecology.

The first walk will take place on May 16 at 6pm from the bottom of Well Road, East Aberthaw. For more information, contact Rachel on 07753 650 964.

Vale AM meets Minister in support of BAMC

IN recent weeks, Vale AM Jane Hutt, has been clarifying issues at BAMC (British Airways Maintenance Centre) which are of great concern to the workforce.

She understands that BAMC has proposals affecting the company's skilled and loyal workforce involving jobs, terms and conditions which are the subject of negotiations with Unite the union, their workforce representatives and management.

She has attended meetings with the workforce and pledged her support for BAMC which plays a vital role in the aerospace industry in south Wales in support of British Airways.

At a meeting with the Minister Edwina Hart, she raised questions about the scale and level of support for BAMC by

the Welsh Government and received assurances about the active engagement of the Welsh Government in support of the BAMC site in Rhosce, which is located in the St Athan enterprise zone.

She said: "The British Maintenance Airways Centre (BAMC) is a key employer in the Vale of Glamorgan playing a vital role in aircraft maintenance with a loyal, skilled workforce including apprentices."

"BAMC has been supported in many ways, over the years, by the Welsh Government and I met the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport to clarify and confirm ways in which we can engage in the current challenging situation."

A top level Welsh Government meeting has now been organised in London with IAG (BAMC).

The winter workload is putting NHS services under more pressure

HEALTH services in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan saw a significant increase in demand during the winter period.

During the first 11 weeks of the year, attendances at the emergency unit (EU) at University Hospital of Wales rose by 8.5 per cent compared to last year with an extra 2,113 cases of people needing help.

Staff have also seen increasing numbers of seriously ill patients, and attendances at the EU on Fridays in January were on average 15 per cent higher compared to the same time last year, highlighting the unpredictability of demand.

There has also been increased demand in the community with GPs seeing more patients and the GP out of hours service seeing a large increase in calls.

Alice Casey, the chief operating officer for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, said: "There has been continuing extra demand placed on services during the winter period and staff have worked tremendously hard to provide care for those

who need it.

"We know there will have been people who have waited longer than we would like at times, and we apologise for any delays while we have had to manage this increase and prioritise those most in need of our help."

"We would like to remind patients who have non-urgent care needs to choose well and

consider other healthcare provisions available to them, including pharmacists, optometrists, GPs and NHS Direct Wales."

The Primary Care out of hours service has seen a seven per cent increase in its workload, receiving nearly 10,000 calls in February alone.

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English Speaking Union hears 'how China works'

AT the most recent lunch of the south Wales branch of the English Speaking Union, guest speaker **Jonathan Fenby** delivered a thought provoking talk on 'How China works: inside the rising superpower'.

With a background of senior editorial positions in Reuters, The Independent, Guardian and Observer, and as editor for many years at the South China Morning Post, Jonathan broadcasts regularly on the BBC, CNN and Bloomberg as well as conducting lecture tours in the UK, USA, Europe and East Asia.

The author of 16 books, eight of them on China, his talk combined specialist knowledge on China's politics, policies, economy and external relations with a more light-hearted insight into the impact of mobile phones and computer tablets on the pervasive power of the communist regime, and in exposing the widespread corruption in Chinese officialdom.

Proposing the vote of thanks, branch president Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards warmly praised both the content and delivery of the talk and, on behalf of members, invited Jonathan to return to speak at a future lunch.

As the author of several books on France, and a Knight of both the French Legion of Honour and the French National Order of Merit, branch members can look forward to another Jonathan Fenby masterclass on our nearest continental neighbour.

At the next lunch, on Tuesday, April 19 at the Cardiff City stadium, Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe will speak on 'Evidence of Life beyond Earth'. Further details from branch chairman Derek Morgan on 01656 669129 or email dwcaym@googlemail.com.



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GEM readers show off their perfect pets

TO celebrate National Pet Month – April 1 to May 2 – The GEM has highlighted many GEM readers' much-loved pets. National Pet Month encourages responsible ownership.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cowbridge History Society

THE society's next lecture will be on Friday, April 1 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge. The subject will be 'Dyffryn and the Cory Family' by Gwerfyl Gardner.

All welcome! Please note: This is a change from the published programme.

Enfys craft fair

THE next Enfys craft fair will take place on Saturday, April 2 at St Ffrancis Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry. The fair is open from 1am until 4pm and entrance is free.

For more information contact Reg on 01446 792149, or Patricia on 01656 880784.

Barry library Easter activity

ON Monday, April 4 an Introduction to Coding is offered, from 1.30pm – 2.30pm; for children aged 9+, perfect for those brand new to coding. To book, follow the eventbrite links on the library's homepage.



Maria's German Shepherd, Zeus, taken in fields at Highlight Park.



Basil John from Llancarfan who smiles when asked!



Keri's cats, Bella and Missy.



Millie at agility doing what she loves.



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Mark's lovely cat Snowy.

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'GVS' JOINS AM IN CELEBRATING THE VALE'S VOLUNTEERS



Cosmeston's Easter visitors welcomed by new look cafe

EASTER visitors to the Lakeside Café at Cosmeston Country Park were welcomed by a bright new-look café.

The park, with its lakes and rural walks, is one of the Vale's busiest attractions at bank holidays.

In 2015, the Vale Council awarded Caterleisure Group the contract at the park.

With a major investment, the Lakeside Coffee Shop has seen a serious makeover. The Vale Council has also taken the opportunity to upgrade 'back of house' equipment.

Louise Hodgson of Caterleisure said feedback from customers had been very positive.

Caterleisure said the café manager, Caroline Stanton, and her team had worked extremely hard to ensure disruption was kept to a minimum and look forward to welcoming back customers, new and old.



The new look cafe at Cosmeston.

Ty Hafan lottery winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D934.

● £2,000: 178524.
● The rollover, which now stands at £3,000 was not won this week.

● £10: 562935, 742806, 498927, 981580, 960078, 562999, 974097, 243176, 281086, 517766, 871102, 592049, 205999, 325362, 477520, 246904, 406823, 650176, 998832.

● £5: 265896, 483916, 216513, 291996, 437613, 867865, 782485, 107621, 333529, 747831, 417601, 106100, 858448, 430112, 582670, 623078, 609082, 464142, 161290, 184045, 962804, 139936, 288587, 901579, 278927, 227599.

337701, 218304, 968144, 284699, 000224, 670686, 670989, 293778, 1984519, 1985077, 364713, 935747, 549225, 005594.

262166, 659251, 818295, 199415, 834459, 524306, 884506, 194973, 341332, 825096, 322175, 396799, 760178, 126298, 380830, 782565, 582688, 742914, 899972, 522700, 591936, 2053200.

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The First Step to a Better Smile

GVS's Dish Out Dosh (a GwirVol funded youth-led grant panel) hosted a celebration of volunteering event and many individuals and local charities were invited along to the civic offices to be presented with their Millennium Volunteer and Star Award certificates by Jane Hutt AM.

These recognise the hours people put into volunteering and in making a difference to their community. The youth volunteering projects that Dish Out Dosh grants supported also showcased Cadoxton Youth Project's Christmas meal, Vale Homework Club, YMCA Gymnastics, Wick Youth Christmas and Scouts Climb Higher.

To find out more about what volunteering opportunities GVS has to offer, contact 01446 741706, e-mail: volunteering@gvs.wales, website: www.gvs.wales.

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Superhero smackdown is a mixed bag...

2016 is the year of the superhero smackdown. Next month sees *Captain America* and *Iron Man* entering civil war with each other as Marvel continues its grip on the minds (and wallets) of the cinema-going public, but first sees DC Comics' finest go head-to-head in *Batman vs Superman: Dawn of*

Justice.

Following on from events of 2013's *Man of Steel*, the world is a very different place. The arrival of Superman (Henry Cavill) has split people, some of whom view him as a saviour, some of whom view him as a threat. In the latter camp is Bruce Wayne (Ben Affleck), whose distrust and concern means dusting down the cape and cowl of Batman to battle Superman. In the middle of all this is billionaire businessman (and shady

character) Lex Luthor who has his own agenda regarding Superman – and who is determined to stop him by any means necessary...

When two such iconic characters meet on the big screen, it is difficult to manage the hype. This confrontation between Batman and Superman has been many years in the making, and the end product is somewhat of a mixed bag of a film, plenty of good stuff, some bad stuff, but all in all a film that captivates even if its portentous, dark tone may not be quite what audiences are after.

The biggest concern, from the internet fans who know all, was the casting of Ben Affleck as Batman, and ironically, the least concerning thing here is his performance. While the character is drawn a little too right-wing, it doesn't overly impact on a performance that may be the most loyal and accurate interpretation of

the comic-book character on the big screen.

As Bruce Wayne Affleck plays the weariness of a man beaten down by 20 years of crime fighting (aided and abetted by the wonderfully droll Jeremy Irons as Alfred), as Batman he shows a cruel, brutal streak that evokes Frank Miller's interpretation of the character in *The Dark Knight Returns*.

Henry Cavill tries his best as Superman, but for the second film in a row he is undone by poor storytelling choices and the way the character is written; you never really engage in the character no matter how hard Cavill tries.

He is further put in the shade by Gal Gadot's extended cameo as Wonder Woman, whose dynamism and presence makes her a pleasant little surprise in the grand scheme of things.

While Amy Adams is undone by her



by **GARETH JAMIESON**

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and direction. The story is far too complicated and messy, lacking the narrative incisiveness needed with such a dense plot, yet paradoxically leaving several points undeveloped or making little sense, most notably Luthor's plans which have no end game.

There is the building of a DC universe similar to the Marvel one within the film, but while the latter was done slowly and over several films, here there is far too much to cram in, with several nods to the larger universe inserted with little finesse.

Finesse is also lacking in Zack Snyder's direction, the director's visual sense prevalent here but also, unchecked, becomes something far too overblown and OTT.

There are moments that are executed with real style, such as the titular fight, but all too often it slips into a CGI mess, the final overcooked sequence so ridiculous that it would give Michael Bay a migraine.

Snyder also makes some strange editing choices, with every scene in the opening half-hour fading to black, while a stunning dream sequence of a dystopian future is undone by the director's inability to highlight that it is a dream sequence and not just part of the story itself.

It's a film that manages to be both sublime and ridiculous – when it's good, it's good – and when it's messy, it's really messy; but it's also a film that is grandiose and mines the

comic book foundations for all it is worth. While *Dawn of Justice* may lack subtlety and humour, its drama and weight makes it a far meatier proposition than many films of this genre – and that's no bad thing.

VERDICT: For all its shortcomings, *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* is a comic-book movie in its purest form, wearing its influence on its sleeve. It's nowhere near perfect, plot holes and Zack Snyder's overly-stylised direction seeing to that, but there is plenty here – Ben Affleck's superb turn, Gal Gadot's Wonder Woman and the sense of a universe being built – that makes it worthwhile. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Man of Steel* (2013), *300* (2006).

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Art Central exhibition



ABOVE:
'Seekers' by
Vernetta
O'Connor.

THE Women's Arts
Association Wales
exhibition
celebrated
International
Women's Day with
a grand opening on
March 12 at the

Arts Central
Gallery Barry,
opened by Jane
Hutt AM.

With an exciting
mixture of work on
display, the first creation
to sell was a topical
sculpture entitled
'Seekers' by Vernetta
O'Connor. This
artwork, constructed
from driftwood and
ceramic, represented a
boat of refugees fleeing
from a war zone to seek
a new life in other lands.
The exhibition
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Centre, Rhoose
Helen 01446 750738/
07968 355119

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Tabernacle Church
Kings Square, Barry
Lorraine 01446 407002

Mondays 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Elfed Avenue United
Church, Elfed Avenue,
Penarth
Nia 07793 885581

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Gilgal Church, Woodland
Ave, Porthcawl
Bev 07912 172674

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Iltyd, (Catholic Church),
Ham Lane East, Llantwit
Major
Helen 01446 750738/
07968355119

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Entrance), Harbour
Road, Barry.
Simone 02920 599001

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Dee 07733 267369

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Presbyterian, Church
Hall, Trinity Street, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

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Annmarie 01446
736534

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Coychurch Road,
Bridgend
Helen - 01656 720963

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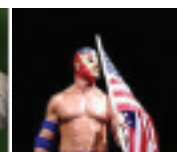
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Wednesday 6 April
19:15



Royal Opera Live:
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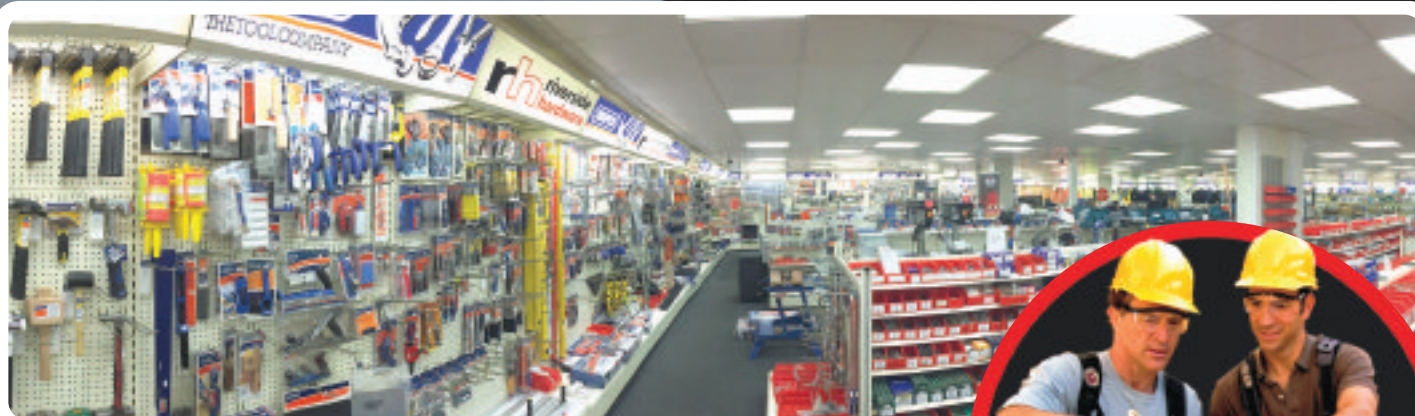
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Roller dance awards are presented by MP

ON March 20, Vale MP Alan Cairns' first public duty as Secretary Of State for Wales was to present cups, certificates and awards to successful skaters at the Glamorgan Artistic Roller Dance presentation.

There were 12 skaters awarded with their certificates for gaining Grade 1, six awarded Grade 2 and one for Grade 3.

A trophy for being the most successful sponsored skater was given to Ruby Lang, who was also awarded the trophy for the most improved skater of the year, chosen by head coach Sheila Davies.

Skaters of the month award was given to two skaters Emily Parsons and Chloe Bates, and the most enthusiastic member, Maci Connell, also received a trophy.

The award of federation test passed for dance went to Ewan Maxwell, Medi Western, Phoebe Escott, Michael Vaughan and Bethan Daly at elementary level. At preliminary level, Phoebe Escott and Kaitlin Daly were

also awarded certificates and medals. Demonstrations were given to show the progression of different levels of skating with Ruby Land and Gabrella Kenefic, then Phoebe Escott and Medi Western.

Bethan Daly and Michael Vaughan skated as a couple doing a Canasta Tango, while Kaitlin Daly and Ewan Maxwell danced a Denver Shuffle.

Free Dancing was executed by little Erin Maxwell, Bethan Daly gave her exhibition to a Michael Buble number, followed by Maya Archampong skating to Pink Panther. The audience reacted to these with loud applause, and we were then treated to Kaitlin Daly doing a lovely Foxtrot.

There was a gift, and thanks to Sarah Archampong because she drives when we have to travel long distances to various competitions with never a complaint! Thanks also to head coach Sheila Davies and her assistants Hilary Cridge, Anne-Marie Escott, Liz Vaughan, Amy Goodwin and Donna Daly.

The group trains in Colcot Sports Hall, Tuesdays 6pm-7pm or can be followed on Facebook.

DD

Soroptimists and Rainbow group at the Senedd



Forum hears story of water activities centre

THE talk at last week's Barry Men's Forum given by the Ocean Watersports Trust secretary, was about the development of the Water Activities Centre at No 1 Dock, on the Mole which is situated in the centre of the dock.

The talk started with the setting up of a three man steering committee in 2013, which resulted in the Ocean Watersports Trust being registered as a charitable

trust in July 2014.

Since then the site has been developed with a slipway and pontoon allowing easy access to the abandoned 78 acres of dock waters, together with boat parking, car parking and temporary accommodation now nearing completion.

A ramp allows wheelchair access to the Mole cabin, fitted out with male and female changing rooms and toilets, a wet room and wc for the disabled, with a small kitchen and storeroom.

The training room allows for meetings and gym activities when the weather is inclement.

He highlighted the number of organisations already signed up to use the facilities during the coming spring and summer season, and reported that 22 different clubs and groups were registered to undertake boating on the dock waters.

The ultimate aim of the centre is to construct an iconic building to provide function and meeting rooms for the whole community, including land-based activities, which together with a café will be a hub which should attract many.

The next meeting is on April 7, when Mr Geoff Jones will be talking about the 80th anniversary of the DC3

New members are very welcome, at £2 per meeting which includes light refreshments; meetings start at 10.15am and finish by noon. The Barry Men's Forum meets at the Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, every Thursday morning. For further information, contact the chairman Peter Westcott on 02920 594881.

PMW

Welsh Assembly candidates face rural question time

THE Glamorgan branch of the Farmers' Union of Wales is giving members and friends of the union the chance to question Welsh Assembly election candidates about the future of the rural industry.

The event will take place on Wednesday 6 April at 7.30pm at St Mary's Hotel, Pencoed, Bridgend (CF35 5EA) and will focus on the agricultural industry and rural communities.

FUW Glamorgan county executive officer Rachel Saunders said: "It will be an ideal opportunity to listen to what the candidates for all parties have to offer the rural constituency in this area and to agriculture in general."

"We believe it's essential for electors to have the chance to ask questions to the candidates, as well as to listen to their views and opinions."

"It is essential that members of the Welsh Assembly and those in power after the May 5 election recognise the importance of supporting our industry."

Candidates from Labour, Conservative,

Plaid Cymru, Liberal Democrats and UKIP have been invited to attend the assembly election hustings. For further information, contact the FUW Glamorgan office on 01446 774838.

Law firm signs Lithuanian deal to recover €2 million

SOUTH Wales-based CJCH Solicitors are teaming up with the European Law Firm of the Year to track down Lithuanian citizens in the UK and recover up to €2 million which courts have ordered them to pay.

Fast-growing CJCH, whose headquarters are in Cardiff, has signed a contract with Lithuanian firm Sorainen, recently named European Law Firm of the Year in the Lawyer Awards, to jointly represent the interests of one of their Lithuanian clients to trace and identify the whereabouts and assets of up to 200 Lithuanian individuals in the UK.

CJCH, which also has

LAST week, Jane Hutt AM welcomed fellow members of the Barry and District

Soroptimists Group (voluntary organisation for professional and business women) and the Rainbow Group (a charity encouraging ethnic minority women to participate in the community), for a joint tour of the Senedd with tea and Welsh cakes.

offices in Barry and Bridgend, will use their specialist asset recovery and enforcement team to investigate each claim and identify the whereabouts of the individual against whom a Lithuanian court has already made judgement. They will then proceed through the UK courts system to enforce the court's ruling and recover assets.

CJCH Solicitors senior partner Stephen Clarke said: "This is a fantastic endorsement of our expertise in this field. Sorainen approached us to work with them on this because of our reputation, which is a real credit to our staff."

"It is a three-year contract and we anticipate the total amount of recovery could exceed €2 million."

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2016/00210/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Detached single storey garage
Location/Lleoliad: Llanelydd, School Lane, St. Nicholas
Conservation Area/
Ardal Gadwraeth: St. Nicholas

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyrto o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No./Rhif y cais: 2015/01228/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Demolition of existing buildings and residential redevelopment of land to deliver 15 affordable homes together with associated car parking, landscaping, drainage infrastructure and other ancillary development
Location/Lleoliad: Land at Former Bus Depot Site, Chapel Terrace, Twyn Yr Ody, Wenvoe

Application(s) with Environmental Statement/ Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8

Proposed development at Land adjacent A4226, Five Mile Lane, Barry.

I give notice that Vale of Glamorgan Council, is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Proposal is for on line improvements to the existing A4226 between Waycock Cross Roundabout in Barry and the lay-by to the north of the Welsh Hawking Centre and an off line new road provision to the east of the existing A4226 which will reconnect with the existing A4226 just to the south of Blackland Farm.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement at a charge of £150.00 (paper copy), £10.00 (CD/DVD copy), or the Non-Technical Summary free of charge from Support Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry CF63 4RT, so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 21 April, 2016.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 21 April 2016 quoting reference 2016/00305/RG3.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8

Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Land adjacent A4226, Five Mile Lane, Barry

Hysbysir trwy hyn Vale of Glamorgan Council, n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfeirnod is for on line improvements to the existing A4226 between Waycock Cross Roundabout in Barry and the lay-by to the north of the Welsh Hawking Centre and an off line new road provision to the east of the existing A4226 which will reconnect with the existing A4226 just to the south of Blackland Farm

Cafodd y cynnyg ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Gall aelodau o'r cyhoedd gael copïau o'r datganiad amgylcheddol am gost o £150.00 (copï papur), £10.00 (CD gopi / DVD), neu'r Crynodeb Annhechnegol am ddim gan Wasanaethau Cymorth, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Doc Swyddfa, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri CF63 4RT, cyhyd ag y stoc yn parhau.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 21 Ebrill, 2016.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 21 Ebrill 2016 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2016/00305/RG3.

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 31 March, 2016

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager,
Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry, CF63 4RT



Time is chipping away for Wales' dog owners...

WITH dog microchipping legislation coming into effect soon, Dogs Trust, the UK's largest dog welfare charity, is urging Welsh dog owners to ensure their pets are chipped and that their contact details on the microchip database are up-to-date.

Official figures reveal that 31 per cent of dogs in Wales are still not chipped.

The microchipping laws dictate that from April 6, any dog owners who do not microchip their pets within 21 days of being served notice will be liable to pay a fine of up to £500.

Microchipping is an essential part of responsible dog ownership and the most effective permanent way of ensuring a lost dog is returned to their owner.

In 2015 alone, 11 per cent of stray dogs in Wales were reunited with their owners thanks to a chip. The chip itself lasts a lifetime, however, owners must ensure their address details are updated after every house move so that the data is current.

Dogs Trust offers free microchipping appointments across all of its 21 Rehoming Centres around the country. Most recently, the charity launched a nationwide tour, led by their three metre high

dog mascot, Dogcilla, hosting free microchipping roadshows and events.

In total Dogcilla travelled the equivalent of the Earth's circumference 5.8 times in her quest to get dogs across the UK chipped before the impending legal change.

Adrian Burder, CEO of Dogs Trust said: "For many years, Dogs Trust has campaigned to bring about the introduction of compulsory microchipping and registration. Therefore, we are very pleased to welcome the legislation, which will go a long way to improving dog welfare. Losing a dog is an extremely upsetting time for both dog and owner so we urge the public to check their pets are chipped and address details are up to date before April 6."

"To date, Dogs Trust has microchipped nearly a million dogs and we're still working tirelessly to ensure as many dogs as possible are given these essential pieces of technology before compulsory microchipping comes into force."

To find out more information on microchip databases and how to update a microchip, please visit www.chipmydog.org.uk/update-your-dogs-chip.

'The Chronicle is an insult to journalism'

THE letter from Mr Viv Kelly in The GEM dated March 24 neatly summarises the thoughts of so many people regarding the 'newspaper' The Glamorgan Chronicle.

The publication is insulting to professional journalism. It even claims 'an exclusive' for a piece of information which nobody else would bother to publish.

The problem is not so much that a lot of the

statements and claims made are of dubious veracity; it is that the authors believe that the public will swallow what they read. It also reveals to what extent the electorate is held in contempt.

The following old political quotation is appropriate: you can fool some of the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all of the time.

George Haynes,
Cowbridge.

'Pop-up choir' is active again

VALE VOICES is a mixed 'pop up' choir which has been running in Barry for the past six years.

Its aim is to introduce new voices to choral singing in an environment where experienced singers can also feel at home and be encouraging.

The 30-strong choir has members from age 11 to 80 and meets for 12 weeks each year. The Vale Voices season culminates in a concert which this year will be on

Friday, June 24 in St Helens Church, Barry.

Rehearsals will be on Mondays 6pm-7pm in Trinity Church upper hall, starting on April 4.

Members fresh-faced and well-seasoned will be warmly welcomed to sing a repertoire including 'Penny Lane', 'Vivaldi Gloria' and the rousing 'Do you Hear the People Sing', which will also be the title of this year's concert.

For more details, contact 07982 319456 or find Vale Voices on Facebook.

Seven rabbits abandoned on Easter Sunday

RSPCA Cymru is appealing for information after seven rabbits – believed to have been dumped – were found at Duffryn Gardens in the Vale.

RSPCA deputy chief inspector Gemma Black was called to the rescue on Easter Sunday (March 27) after seven rabbits were found running loose in the gardens.

"I couldn't believe it when I received the call on Easter Sunday," she said. "It seemed far too topical and I wondered at first if this could be an Easter prank."

"They are seven lovely rabbits that sadly appear to have been dumped in the grounds near the back entrance. There are country lanes nearby and there aren't really houses where they could have escaped from."

The rabbits have all been given chocolate-y nicknames – Fudge, Toffee, Caramel, Button, Truffle, Coco and Sugar – and were taken to a veterinary surgery for a check up. The five male and two female rabbits, are aged around five months and had not been neutered.

The rabbits are now in



RSPCA care and are doing well.

"Anyone who may have information about these rabbits should contact the RSPCA

inspectorate appeal line on 0300 123 8018. Calls are treated in confidence," deputy chief Black added.

"If we are unable to track down the owner, the rabbits will be rehomed."

The RSPCA discourages people from buying rabbits on impulse as Easter

presents. Every year, more than a thousand rabbits are abandoned and are taken into RSPCA care.

"We would encourage anyone looking to give a pet a home to go a rescue centre and chose a pet which is best suited to their lifestyle," she added.

For more information about how to keep rabbits happy and healthy, visit the website <http://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/rabbits>.

Iconic bandstand gets a summer makeover

THE Victoria Park bandstand in Cadoxton is receiving a renovation makeover in time for the summer.

Over the last couple of years the ceiling, bargeboards and soffits have shown signs of water damage and some rot. The Vale Council has commissioned restoration work on the iconic bandstand in order to get it ready for a great season of events this summer.

Local craftsmen and carpenters from Woodspec Joinery Specialists are currently carrying out the repairs on the bandstand. This includes custom made stainless covers and rain channels to help prevent leaking on the upper tier. Larger drainage pipes and renovated gutters will ensure that

water flows away from the roof.

Cabinet member for visible and leisure services, Coun Gwyn John, said: "With the old ceiling removed and work well underway sealing the upper tier, we are looking forward to seeing the finished result. Since the Bandstand was rebuilt in Victoria Park it has become a much loved landmark, and stage for some superb events and music concerts. It's the centrepiece of the Cadstock Music Festival every year."

"This work will make sure that the bandstand will last for many years to come and will be ready for upcoming events, including African drumming, two brass band concerts, several fundays and of course the Cadstock Festival."

Grass cutting team is ready for action

The Vale Council's award-winning parks team is ready for a new way of working and

another busy summer of grass cutting.

To improve the way in which many of the Vale's green spaces are managed a number of changes have been made to the grass cutting routine for 2016. This year will see a trialling of longer grass 'collars' being left around some trees to prevent damage from trimmers along with a number of other measures to develop a

more sustainable natural environment for the county.

Vale residents may also notice that the team will be using a new type ride-on mower for the first time that will speed up grass cutting in many areas that were previously only accessible to hand mowers, a measure that will reduce both cost and the disruption of maintenance to green spaces.

PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT at Barry Town Council Offices, Gladstone Road, Barry, on Thursday, April 14 at 6.30pm.

RHOOSE coffee and chat will be held at the Fontygary Inn, Rhooose, on Thursday, March 31 at 11am.

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find us @gem_news

ISLAND PROVES AN IDEAL LOCATION FOR SPORTS RELIEF CHARITY MILE

PHOTOGRAPHS by ANDY WICKS
Telephone 07855 374478

THE Sports Relief Charity Mile was held at Barry Island recently and people of all generations were keen to take part and raise funds for a great cause.

Of the money raised by the public through Sport Relief, 50 per cent makes a difference in the UK, and 50 per cent goes towards transforming lives across the world's poorest communities. For more information, or to donate, go to: <http://www.sportrelief.com/>.



LEFT AND
RIGHT:
As you can see from
Andy Wicks' images of the day, it proved a great family event – with some four legged friends attending as well!



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MURCH BOWLING CLUB – Looking for a summer hobby?



Murch Bowling Club are holding an open day.

THIS is to all those ladies and gents who have ever wondered about taking up outdoor bowls, which is a fun, sociable sport.

We all know the importance of exercise and what could be pleasanter on a beautiful summer day than a couple of hours bowling with like-minded friends?

Our season re-commences in April 2016 so we would like to invite you to join us on opening day, Saturday, April 16 at 2pm to try your hand at bowling. Bowls will be provided, just wear flat soled shoes and you will be good to go.

We are situated at the end of Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys.

You will meet some of our existing members who will be happy to discuss with you the merits of the game. It would also give you a chance to enjoy the excellent facilities in our clubhouse.

If you would like more information prior to April 16, feel free to contact the following members: Graham Russell (treasurer) 02920 513619; Eileen Carrey (secretary) 02920 515568; Maurice Warman (men's secretary) 02920 512575.

NEWS FROM THE BARRY CHESS CLUB

THERE have been no matches in the East Glamorgan Chess league but three different competitions held under the auspices of the Welsh Chess Union.

The first competition was the first Team Rapidplay. This tournament was designed to replace the Welsh Knock Out Cup as this latter event has been poorly attended in recent years.

However, deciding to play the tournament on the same day that Cardiff City were at home and the England v Wales 6 Nations rugby match was being screened live on television proved to be an error. Abergavenny were the only entrant in either section so the event was cancelled.

On the next day the fifth round of the Welsh Premier League took place. The Vale were drawn away to Nidum in this round.

We were unfortunately unable to field a full team. This meant that not only were we already a point down before the first moves were made but our players on the lower boards all had to move up and play stronger players than should have been the case.

In the end we lost 4-2 with the top three boards picking up our points. The best result came from Mike Servini with a draw against Nidum's Matthew Davies, a player who represents Barry in the East Glamorgan League.

The Vale remain in sixth place out of seven. Should we win our final two matches we could finish in third but we are

more likely to be fighting to avoid the wooden spoon.

The main event at Easter is always the Welsh Championships.

In the Open Section the only Barry player was Nigel Ralphs, although he was joined by ex-Barry players Lee Davis and Joe Turner.

In the Major event Sam Jukes was our sole entrant; however in the Minor Event there were a number of Barry players. Nigel was ranked to finish 10th out of 40 entrants in the Open Section. He made a solid start, picking up a win and four draws in the first five rounds.

However defeats in rounds six and seven left him with three points from seven games to finish in the top half - just.

Wins in round seven for Lee and Joe took them above Nigel for the

first time in this year's tournament.

Details about the Major and Minor sections will be reported next week.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at <http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com>. PJ

On and Off the Turf with Brian Lee

BROTHERS Evan and Tom David from Llanharan both rode winners at the Easter Monday South Pembrokeshire Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at sunny Lydstep.

Twenty-three-year-old Evan landed the opening members race and 25 year-old Tom took the closing restricted race.

Evan, riding the Robert Luke trained Full Print, jumped the last fence ahead of the odds-on favourite Harpsy Cord, ridden by Welsh champion John Mathias, and went on to score by three lengths.

Tom, riding Mrs Carmen Goldsworthy's Captain Camelot, finished six lengths ahead of Mathias's mount Shanks A Lot.

Captain Camelot, who had lost his maiden tag over the course last season, could be in the line-up for the Dunraven Bowl Novices Hunter Chase at Chepstow Racecourse on April 22.

Wales's most popular point-to-pointer David Llewellyn's 13-year-old bay gelding Rosies Peacock chalked up his 31st win between-the-flags when winning the West Wales Area feature open race by one-and-a-half lengths from Tom David's mount BoyFromNoWhere.

Winning rider John Mathias said: "To be honest he was always on the bridle but that's Rosie - he always keeps pulling out more."

The homebred Rosies Peacock, who has also won a hunter-chase, at 13, was the oldest horse in the race and unlike a number of prolific winners often starts at odds-against as he did on Monday.

Long may this grand old warrior keep defying those odds. It has certainly been a privilege to report and write about this remarkable horse

who has captured the imagination of hunting enthusiasts throughout the land.

Mathias was also successful on the promising five-year-old Constantine Bay, which won the young horse maiden race coming home five lengths ahead of the pacemaking Midnight Bliss.

Jodie Hughes, riding the Mickey Bowen trained Tony Star, won the ladies' open race by 12 lengths from Watch The Birdie who will surely improve after that run and Wayne Maskill rode a well-judged race to win the open maiden on 10-year-old Sandeel Bay, which got home by half-a-length from Mountain Of Angels.

BEN WINS OPEN PONY RACE

Ben Hughes, aged 14, from Gilfach Goch won the 148cms open pony race on Dark Magic beating Merthyr Mawr's Jack Tudor, aged 13, riding Poppy Haze.

This was Ben's first pony racing winner but he is a successful show jumper.

This Saturday, the Monmouthshire Hunt Point-To-Point will take place at Llanvapley near Abergavenny.

Club members shine at English championships

The team from JSTKD Martial Arts & Fitness enjoyed another good result during their visit to the recent English Tae Kwon Do Championships.

Despite having a much smaller team than usual, and with several members suffering from injuries, everyone made a magnificent effort to ensure that they returned home with trophies and medals from the day.

The team comprised Lynne Doel, Rhys Doel, Menna Birmingham, Dylan Sullivan, Alan Li, Chris Edwards, Josh Edwards, Niamh Padmore, Alisha Roberts and Viv Wilfred.

Regardless of an ongoing injury, Alan Li set about things at his usual blistering pace in the Cadet Middleweight Black Belt Sparring division.

Two of his unfortunate opponents found themselves seeking attention from the medics as he combined a range of merciless kicks with well-targeted punches on his way to the final.

This proved to be an extremely close-run affair and with just the

narrowest of margins denying him the top spot, he eventually came away with the silver.

Over in the Boys Green Belt Tiny Tots Sparring division there was almost a miniature version of Alan's fight unfolding as Dylan Sullivan put in a terrific performance.

Demonstrating a variety of techniques, he too, saw the slimmest of victories go to his rival and had to be content with the silver.

Josh Edwards, Boys Lightweight Black Belt Sparring, showed great courage as he came up against a very aggressive and much larger opponent.

Although taking two hard kicks to his face and eye, he was determined not to give in and while going out in the earlier rounds, he did so commendably.

The girls were not to be outdone though, and both Niamh Padmore and Alisha Roberts fought well in their Girls Yellow Belt Lightweight matches.

Although neither reached the final, both put in very credible performances with Alisha going on later in the day to avenge herself in the tag team event by

taking the gold medal alongside her teammates.

A mention must go to Rhys Doel, Boys Lightweight Black Belt, and Menna Birmingham, Girls Middleweight Black Belt, who both did well in their sparring and patterns events but just missed out on the medals.

For the adults, Chris Edwards, Mens Welterweight Red Belt Sparring, found himself in the same position as son Josh, getting a very harsh opponent in the first round.

Known for her consistent sparring record, Lynne Doel tried her skills in the Ladies Red Belt Patterns this time and although scoring highly, just lost out on the medal places.

Viv Wilfred, meanwhile, was sparring in the Executive Ladies Green Belt event. After a keenly contested battle, she had to settle for a well deserved bronze.

JSTKD has classes for all ages from three years to adults and welcomes beginners, returners or experienced students at their venues throughout the Vale - visit www.jstkd.co.uk for details.

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Half Ironman record broken in the Vale

THE Vale was home to a record breaking attempt on Thursday, March 24.

Pritchard's 100k Challenge is the charity fundraising, record-breaking attempt of Matthew Pritchard, the man behind the popular MTV series Dirty Sanchez. His challenge will see him attempt to complete 30 Half Ironman triathlons in 30 days across towns and cities throughout Wales.

That's a 1.2 mile swim, a 56 mile cycle and a 13.1 mile run every day for 30 days! Day 23 of his challenge saw him finish his 56 mile cycle around the Vale at Peter Alan's Barry branch, before donning his trainers to start his half marathon run.

What was particularly special about day 23 was that it would be the day that took him beyond the existing record and into the record books.

With some local runners for company, the run took in the Vale Council's newly-renovated Jenner

Park stadium, where Matthew was welcomed by players and management of Barry Town FC and children from Jenner Park Primary School, who even joined him for a lap of the athletics track.

After leaving the stadium, his run took in Barry Island and the Knap before crossing the finish line in King Square, where he was congratulated by friends and the media.

Matthew said: "I'm over the moon to have broken the record and raised more money and awareness for our charities. I have still got another seven days to go until we reach our target, but knowing that we have broken the record will make it a little bit easier."

The charities benefiting from Pritchard's 100k Challenge are Guide Dogs, the Big Moose, Shelter Cymru, Ty Hafan and Friends of Greenhill. For more information and to donate, visit www.pritchards100kchallenge.com.

Strong performance from Pencoed Phoenix sees them earn deserved win



Lowri Francis looks for a pass. ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK.



Hannah Seward.



Nerys Lloyd.



Katie Murphy.

SCORPIONS LAND NEW SIGNINGS

SOUTH Wales Scorpions have further strengthened their squad after completing the signings of two Welsh players.

Bridgend Blue Bulls' Tom Ansen is the first player to join the Scorpions since the two clubs officially linked up earlier this year.

The 24-year old, who can play at centre, second row or prop, scored two tries in Bridgend's 34-30 Welsh Grand Final win over Aber Valley Wolves last year and was then selected in the Wales Dragonhearts initial training squad.

Last year was his first in rugby league. He had previously played rugby union for Pyle RFC where he was a proven try scorer.

Ansen said: "I'm over the moon to have been taken on by South Wales Scorpions. When I started rugby league a year ago I wanted to go as far as I can, so I'm already pleased to have scored in a Grand Final and now been taken on by our professional side here in south Wales."

Meanwhile, making a return to rugby league is Loren Quick who was in the original South Wales Scorpions squad as an 19-year old in 2010 but only made friendly match appearances.

The 25-year old second row forward was originally discovered by Celtic Crusaders when playing for local rugby union side Rummy and was drafted into their under-18s side following an open trial, ending up as top scorer in their 2008-09 National Youth League championship-winning season.

While still only 18, he went on to be a regular for the Crusaders in Super League reserves in 2009 and won caps for Wales and Great Britain at under-18 level.

Following his initial spell at the Scorpions, he spent a year with Warrington Wolves' under-20s, playing against the Scorpions in a pre-season friendly, before returning to rugby union, playing for Glamorgan Wanderers then Rummy once again.

Quick said: "I've been playing union since finishing at Warrington and doing my electrical

apprenticeship.

"I've been looking to get back to League for a few years but the time wasn't right. Now is perfect with work commitments so I wanted to give it another go. I feel I have a lot to give the club from what I've learned in the past. I'm really keen to get going."

South Wales Scorpions director Marc Lovering is pleased to see two more local players join the squad.

"We believe that both have the ability to make the grade at League 1 level," he said. "We're pleased that Loren has returned to rugby league and we're exceptionally delighted that Tom has signed as he's the first player we've brought in from Bridgend Blue Bulls since our official partnership was launched."

"Tom is a player that we've been aware of for some time. We are in regular contact with Pat and Steve and the other guys down at Bridgend and they felt that he was more than ready. That was good enough for us to invite him up to training. The rest was down to him and he has done enough to impress coach Phil Carleton and earn himself a contract. If it doesn't work out (and there's no reason to think it won't) then hopefully he'll have enjoyed his time with us and return to the Bulls a better player. At least he will have given it a go and won't have any regrets."

"That's the type of relationship we are starting to build with our community clubs. They know their players better than anyone. If they think they have players ready for a crack at League 1 then we want them to be pushing them forward."

"It is a huge step up from Conference League South or the Welsh Conference, but there are players in the Welsh community game capable of bridging that gap."

"With the obvious exception of our friends up in north Wales, the Scorpions are the only pathway into professional rugby league in Wales and that's not going to change anytime soon."

A strong second half performance from Pencoed Phoenix saw them gain a National League Division 1 bonus point victory against Seven Sisters ladies at the Recreation ground.

As always the Dulais Valley side came with a big pack with Phoenix well aware of the threat they posed.

The home side absorbed the early visitors pressure before opening the scoring on the counter, scrum half Amy Stevens breaking in midfield before finding centre Hannah Seward with a well judged floated pass, Seward's pace doing the rest from 50 metres to score.

The driving play of the visitors pack led by Welsh international prop forward Beth Howells kept Phoenix on the back foot for a while, but Phoenix were looking dangerous when moving the ball wide and territorially doing well into the strong breeze.

Despite Phoenix having created several more chances during the half the score remained 5-0 at the interval.

However it was the visitors who were next on the scoresheet, a dummying run from outside half Rachel Rees splitting the home defence and several passes saw their outside centre cross to level matters.

From this point in the match Phoenix gradually

got on top, and Welsh international Melissa Clay, returning from Six Nations involvement, set up the second Phoenix try, beating several players in an outside arc before sending in Seward from 30 metres out to score her second try.

Going into the final 10 minutes Phoenix increased their lead, Clay alert to a quickly taken tap penalty to cross at the posts, Rhianydd Morgan adding the extras.

Phoenix soon added their bonus point try, Seward breaking clear before offloading to the supporting Clay who took the final tackle before reaching out to get the touchdown.

Phoenix were not finished and Stevens wrapped matters up with a kick and chase try from 30 metres.

In a committed all-round performance the graft of the home pack against a bigger eight laid the foundations for victory.

Seven Sisters chose Melissa Clay and Hannah Seward as the Phoenix players of the match, with Kelsey Jones chosen by Phoenix as Seven Sisters player of the match.

Phoenix can now look forward to the rest of the season with confidence following this hard earned victory, and next up for Phoenix is Bargoed away on April 10, having drawn a bye in the National Cup competition the previous week.

TR



Evan Williams peels away from a tackle. PICTURES BY PETER GILLING

Hard-fought victory for Kenfig Hill Seconds

KENFIG HILL seconds went to the top of the district seconds league with a hard fought 18-13 win over Brackla with a very young side.

With the club's youth fixture being cancelled on Friday, Kenfig Hill took the opportunity to blood several youth players in a tough league fixture against Brackla - with none of the starting XV aged over 25.

A torrential downpour just as the game kicked off hampered the running style of rugby which Kenfig Hill wanted to play and the only score in the first 15 minutes was a penalty to Kenfig Hill scored by Michael Rawnsdon.

Youth winger Ceejay Sharpe managed to find some space and skipped round several Brackla defenders to score in the corner to make the halftime score 8-0 to Kenfig Hill.

Kenfig Hill made several changes at halftime and continued to pressure the Brackla line.

After a series of 'pick and goes' from the pack to take them from the halfway line, hooker Joe Williams forced his way over for a try which wasn't converted.

Not long after the restart the youth flanker Josh Dixon, playing out of position at full back, took the ball at pace after an attempted clearance by Brackla to go over unopposed for Kenfig Hill's third try.

However, Kenfig Hill couldn't find a fourth try for a winning bonus point and it was Brackla who took control of the final quarter, scoring two unconverted tries in the final 10 minutes to make the final score Brackla 13, Kenfig Hill 18.

The win took Kenfig Hill to the top of the district seconds league for the first time, in front of Llanharan with one



Tom Briggs crosses for Kenfig Hill firsts.



Try time for Jon Thomas.

game remaining against Bridgend Athletic and the Enoch Lewis Cup final to look forward to on April 16, also against Bridgend Athletic.

KENFIG HILL V MAESTEG QUINS After too long a lay-off it was good to see Kenfig Hill back playing at Croft Goch Fields.

On a good pitch the young Mules pack started well despite the torrential downpour. A well taken drive from the five yard line resulting in the hooker Josh Joyce going over in the corner.

It was not long before another Mules driving maul near the Quins line ended with a try for Dan Jones. Neither try was converted.

The Kenfig Hill team now gathered momentum, spreading the ball wide and quickly scored four tries by Tom Briggs, Lloyd Giles, Luke Griffiths and Tom Davies, outside half Lloyd Giles with one conversion. The first half finished 31-0.

The Mules started the second half with a bang and Aaron Graham scored in the corner.

Although the Quins did not throw in the towel it became an uphill struggle and Kenfig Hill ran in a further four tries through Kristian Stenner, Luke Griffiths, Jon Thomas and replacement centre Kyle Oram.

Luke Griffiths added two conversions for a final score of 61-0. **DHD**

BOWLS CLUB LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

PRINCE of Wales Court bowling club is recruiting new members, experienced or novice - if anyone is interested please contact Graham Evans on 016565 782928 or Gareth Dyne on 01656 773575.

The season starts on April 21 and the club has excellent bowling and social facilities and accommodates both male and female bowlers; it is situated on Penylan Avenue, Porthcawl.

GE

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www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

Rampant Swansea RFC whitewash Bridgend Athletic in bonus point win

BRIDGEND Athletic visited St Helens on Easter Saturday to take on Swansea - the only Championship side they have never beaten.

The outcome was familiar as Swansea moved to the top of the Championship with a bonus point 33-0 win.

Swansea started the game with the advantage of driving rain and wind blowing from the Mumbles end.

The Athletic started the game without their entire normal front row of Wayne Fooks, Nathan Holman and Matt Muir, who are all injured.

The front row on view - Lewis Davies, Rhidian Jenkins and Zach Evans - were playing together for the first time.

Swansea capitalised in the opening quarter as the front row were penalised early on and outside half Jack Wilson kicked a penalty.

He added another when the Athletic were penalised for not releasing.

Scrum half Rhodri Wells then forced his way over for a try converted by Wilson.

From a five metre scrum No 8 Rory

Gallagher picked up and forced his way over.

A minute later prop Mitchell Ward charged down an attempted clearance kick for the simplest of tries.

This left the Athletic facing humiliation, trailing by 23 points to nil after only 20 minutes.

However to their credit the Athletic dug in. The front row started to function for the rest of the game, while the back row of Stuart Edbrook, Ben Howe and Sean Williams did not take a backward step.

Swansea were trying to play an expansive game but strong tackling by centres Sean Wilcox and Lewis Evans and wing Gareth Rees and Chris Lewis prevented Swansea adding any further points for them to go in at half-time with a 23-0 advantage.

Second half wind advantage helped the Athletic counteract the big Swansea pack and back division and the second half was more evenly fought territorially. Lock Tom Penry Ellis and Griff Davies along with No 8 Stuart Edbrook carried manfully against larger opponents.

Half backs Scott Govan and Jake

Williams tried hard to make ground against a well drilled Swansea outfit.

Full back Dan Howells and centre Lewis Evans also were probing for openings throughout.

Swansea did score another two second half tries through full back Liam Popham and replacement Richard Thomas.

The Athletic brought on substitutes Lee Murphy, youth team scrum half Dan James and Matthew Bennett.

Bennett in particular made an impact putting in a number of big hits and carries as well as securing lineout possession.

This coming Saturday the Athletic entertain fellow league strugglers Newbridge looking for a seasonal double over their Gwent rivals.

The coaches have deemed this a must-win game and could well decide whether the Athletic remain in the Championship next season.

They urge all Athletic supporters to turn up and encourage a match-winning performance on the day.

AB

News from Bridgend bridge club

THE results for recent events are:

Wednesday, March 23 - 1st Mike Best and David Birt, 2nd Irene Thomas and Graham Jones, 2nd David Bowen and David Crompton. Winners on handicap David Bowen and David Crompton.

Thursday, March 24 - 1st Glyn Williams and Stuart Davies, 2nd Eileen Mahoney and Geoff Barnett, 3rd Mike Williams and John Henson. Winners on handicap Eileen Mahoney and Geoff Barnett.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to commence at 7pm so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session.

Master points are now awarded but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

TW

TG

ROUTINE WIN FOR PENYBONT

PENYBONT under-18s extended their unbeaten run to 14 matches with a routine victory against bottom of the league Corntown.

The match was played in very windy conditions which didn't help either team.

Penybont were quick out of the blocks as they opened the scoring in just 55 seconds.

Ciaran Roberts made a good run inside the right of the penalty area to then cross the ball into goal machine Jac Lewis, who fired home from close range.

Penybont goalkeeper Calum Williams then made a vital one on one save to stop Corntown from levelling the scores.

Penybont doubled their lead in the 15th minute through Ashleigh Jones, who calmly recovered from missing a penalty to then slot in the rebound.

The good football continued as one of the goals of the season was nearly scored after a superb Oliver Waagenes free kick was headed onto the bar by Arran Williams.

Corner specialist Robert Symons delivered a high hanging corner to the far post which was helped in by the head of Joe Price who had an excellent game all round.

On the stroke of

half-time, Penybont scored a fourth through Morgan Ley who was rewarded for following up a Jac Lewis shot which was palmed out by the Corntown goalkeeper.

The halftime break didn't stop Penybont in their tracks as they quickly made it 5-0 in the 52nd minute.

Midfield playmaker Oliver Waagenes played a superb ball across the pitch to Robert Symons, who scored from a difficult angle to the right of the goal.

After assisting the fifth goal, Oliver Waagenes was amongst the goals again by completing a six minute hat trick.

His first saw him speed past the Corntown defence to ruthlessly strike the ball into the back of the net.

Penybont's seventh, and Waagenes' second of the game, was a very classy finish where he placed the ball perfectly between the near post and the goalkeeper.

The 8-0 rout and the hat trick were then both completed after Waagenes lofted the ball over the goalkeeper after being assisted by Ben Thomas.

Overall, Penybont's unbeaten momentum continues which will stand them in good stead in their quest to be cup champions and league runners-up.

TOM PROSSER

Day admits concentration is costing him

SNOOKER player Ryan Day admits that lapses of concentration are costing him too many matches.

Competing in the Players' Championship in Manchester, the 36-year-old from Pontycymer said he is working on finding a solution to the problem.

"I'm comfortable with my game at the moment," he said, "But losing concentration is sometimes a problem. 'It's costing me. I'm working on it, but there's still more to be done.'"

In Manchester, Day recorded a promising 4-1 first round win over England's Kyren Wilson, ranked one place above him at No 19 in the world.

But there was

disappointment the following day when he went down 4-2 to another Englishman, Mike Dunn, the world No 40.

The defeat cost Day a place in the last eight and also important qualifying points for the world championship in Sheffield in April.

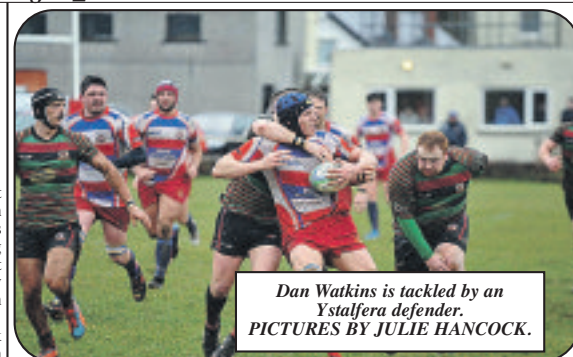
TV commentator Stephen Hendry described his defeat as "a missed opportunity".

Ranked 20th in the world, having once been as high as sixth, Day is considered by many to be the best player never to have won a ranking event.

During an 18-year professional career, he has won around £850,000 in prize money and made 250 century breaks, including a maximum 147.

MP

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Dan Watkins is tackled by an Ystalyfera defender.
PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK.

Vital win for Pencoed RFC

THIS was always going to be a closely fought affair at the Recreation Ground between Pencoed and Ystalyfera, with both clubs, in the lower reaches of Division 1 West Central, seeking victory to improve their respective league positions and go some way towards protecting their league status.

The visitors opened strongly with conditions in their favour and following a few anxious early moments deep in their own 22, Pencoed full back Rhys Thomas relieved pressure with a lengthy clearance.

It was the home side however who opened the scoring, wing David Young breaking down the left before kicking ahead to catch the visitors' full back in possession, and a Fera infringement at the breakdown gave Adam Williams the opportunity to put his side on the scoreboard.

Pencoed's lead was short lived, conceding possession at the restart for the visitors to level matters with a penalty goal.

Territorially the home side were doing well into the elements over the opening quarter and following a grubber kick from scrum half Rhys Clarke, Thomas almost broke clear in the visitors' 22.

On 25 minutes Ystalyfera went into the lead with a penalty goal, but soon after the home support saw some encouraging signs with the Fera pack driven off their own ball.



Chairman Terry Rees presents Aaron Halse with his cap.

Pencoed back row forward Aaron Halse, playing his 300th match for the club to gain a coveted Pencoed cap, then broke clear only for his kick ahead to just run out of play with several Pencoed players in pursuit, and the interval arrived with the visitors ahead 3-6.

Williams added a 40 metre penalty early in the second half to bring matters level.

Another strong scrummage in their own 22 allowed Pencoed to clear their lines and return to the visitors' half before wing Jack Picton caught the Ystalyfera last line of defence in possession to set up a sustained period of pressure in their 22.

Second row Dano Howells made further inroads with a driving run before the visitors were penalised for offside, Williams slotting a well judged penalty goal in the conditions to give his side the lead at 9-6.

Ystalyfera returned to

the attack and sustained driving play in the home 22 threatened the tenuous home lead before Dan Watkins won a vital lineout steal to relieve pressure.

With Pencoed having picked up a yellow card, the Fera returned to the home 22 scenting victory, but superb defence kept them at bay before what proved to be a match-winning turnover from replacement Rhys Watkins deep in his own 22, and the match ended with Pencoed showing their resolve with another turnover at the scrummage.

The positives for the home side from this victory, keeping their line intact, and the inclusion of current youth players Chris Cooper, Liam Parrish, and Dan Watkins, who look comfortable at this level.

On Saturday Pencoed travel to Maesteg Harlequins, 2.30pm kick off.

TR

Porthcawl bridge club news

THE club recently held its annual competitions for the ladies pairs (Gaskell Cup) and the men's pairs (Cornish Cup).

The ladies' winners were Trish Saunders and Pat Cogbill, and the men's winners were Gary Williams and Tony Haworth.

Other results are:
 Thursday, March 10, ladies' pairs: First - Trish Saunders & Pat Cogbill; second - Emer Disley & Pat Haworth. Men's pairs: First - Gary Williams & Tony Haworth; second - John Beard & Keith Davison.

Saturday, March 12: First - Terry Dolan & Kate Craven; second - Connie Dick & Marian Evans.

Saturday, March 19: First - Dil Evans & Roger Draper; second - Roger Plant & Betty Longley.

Thursday, March 24: First - Tony Haworth & Keith Davison; second - Peter & Sandie Jenkins.

Last week Tony gave a seminar on 'Jacoby 2NTs' that was well attended. This will be the last seminar for the foreseeable future, due to the earlier start time for club nights (6.45pm).

The club meets twice a week - Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, 6.45pm-9.45pm, visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call our secretary Trish on 01656 785794.

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Family Notices

COLLINS

Patrick John (Paddy)

Suddenly at home on 14th March 2016, Paddy aged 77 years. Beloved husband of Bebe, much loved dad of Karen and Louise, father-in-law of Paul and a cherished granddad to Nia and Robyn. Paddy will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral on Wednesday, 6th April in the chapel of rest at 10am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations in lieu if so desired, for Ty Hafan c/o the Funeral Director.

DEMPSEY-NIXON
Beryl

Died in the grace of God on March 9th, 2016. Will be sadly missed by all her friends. May she rest in peace.

Requiem Mass to be held at St. Mary's R.C. Church, Dinas Powys on Tuesday, 5th April 2016 at 11am, thereafter to St. Andrew's Cemetery. All flowers and enquires to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE. Tel (029) 2051 4627.

RAUCH
Colin

Suddenly on March 20 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Colin of St. Athan. Beloved husband of Pat, dearly loved father of Michele and Martin, much loved grampy of Hayden, Curtis, Will and Rebecca.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fomfon. Funeral Monday, April 4, service and cremation 3pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Air Ambulance Wales c/o J James, 11 Fomfon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

BARRY

Veronica Ann (Nee Parry)

Sadly on Monday, 21 March 2016 at her home in Treos, Vale of Glamorgan, Veronica formerly of Albion Road, Baglan. Beloved wife of Ray, much loved mum of Samantha and the late Lisa. Cherished grandma of Will, Gwen, Megan and Grace. Dearly loved mother-in-law of Gareth and Simon.

Veronica will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service to be held on Wednesday, 6th April at St Catharine's Church, Baglan, Port Talbot at 11.10am, followed by cremation at Margam Crematorium at 12.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations in memory of Veronica can be made to the Maggie's Centres, c/o Mr Thomas E. Morris, Gareth A. Jenkins Independent Funeral Directors of Baglan Funeral Home, Pentwyn Baglan Road, Port Talbot, SA12 8EB, telephone 01639 790333.

DONOVAN

Joan Anne

Peacefully on March 18th at the University Hospital of Wales with her brothers Terry and Roy at her side - Joan, well known for her time at F. W. Morgan and popular member of St Helens RC Church, Barry. Joan will be dearly missed by all her family and many friends.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry. Requiem Mass to take place at St Helens RC Church, Barry on Wednesday, 13th April at 12.30pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family flowers only, donations if desired, may be made at her service or via Joan's online Tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are also welcome to leave your personal tributes and messages. Donations to support the work of Ty Hafan Children's Hospice For Wales.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

DUNNE
George

Peacefully after an illness bravely borne, George, loving husband of Liza, much loved dad and step-dad.

Will be sadly missed by all family and friends. Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, April 8th at 2.15pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to Velindre Cancer Care forwarded to Velindre Hospital, Velindre Road, Whitechurch, Cardiff.

GREENWAY

Jim (James) Joseph

Jim of Fryatt Street passed away peacefully on 21 March. Jim born in 1933 is sadly missed by his family, his loving wife Doreen, sons, daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements to follow.

HOPKINS
Audrey Patricia

(Formerly Brana) (née Sidford)

Peacefully on March 17th at Llandough Hospital after a very short illness, Audrey passed away with her daughters, Dawn and Tricia, at her bedside. Also much loved mum to Gail and Steven. Cherished nan & great nan to all her grandchildren.

Audrey will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew her.

Resting in the private chapel of the Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery Chapel on Thursday, April 7th at 2pm, followed by interment.

Family floral tributes only - donations if desired may be made at the service to support The Stroke Units at The University Hospital of Wales or Ward East 6 at Llandough Hospital, alternatively personal tributes and messages may be made via Audrey's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk

ROWLES

Edie

Peacefully at home on 27th March after an illness bravely borne. Cherished mother of Alan, Sandra, Linda, Janet and Simon, mother-in-law to Carol and Zuzanna. Loving nan to all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Resting at Park Funeral Directors, 7 Tynwydd Road, Barry, until the funeral service at 12pm on Wednesday, 6th April at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if desired, may be made to Marie Curie Holme Tower.

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Wales on Sunday	16,060	Paid £1.50

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COLLEGE CELEBRATES ITS RUGBY ACADEMY SPONSORS



LEFT: Dan Watts presenting a shirt to The Wallich's corporate relations manager Zoë Westerman, and ABOVE: The team with sponsors Castell Howell.

CARDIFF and Vale College welcomed the sponsors of its rugby academy kit to the college recently to say 'thank you' for their support.

Under Armour, Castell Howell, The Wallich, Simply Fresh, Circle IT, EPOS and Lookers Jeep Cardiff have all offered their sponsorship to the academy team.

Lookers have also provided director of rugby Martyn Fowler with a sponsored car, but unfortunately they could not make it on the day.

The sponsors were invited to the BT Cardiff Arms Park, where they met the team. Rugby academy captain, 18-year-old Dan Watts from

Dinas Powys, presented each sponsor with a framed rugby academy shirt.

They then watched the team score a win over Hereford Sixth Form College's rugby academy at the stadium.

Cardiff and Vale College deputy principal Kay Martin said: "Cardiff and Vale College really appreciates that businesses based in and around Cardiff are showing increasing support for our rugby academy. We are extremely pleased that these companies are valuing the next generation of Welsh rugby talent and we will repay this support as our players go from strength to strength, wearing their kit with pride."

What's on and where?

Valeways guided walks
ON Saturday, April 2 there will be a forest walk of seven miles; meet at Hensol Forest car park at 10am.

On Tuesday, April 5 Crwydro Ynys Y Barri will start from Gorsaf Reilffordd Ynys Y Barri at 10am.

Wednesday, April 6 at 10.30am the Coffee Shop Strollers of Barry will meet at Romilly Cafe on Cold Knap, Barry.

Dyfan Councillors Surgery

DYFAN Ward councillors Claire Curtis and Anthony Powell will hold their monthly councillors' surgery on Saturday, April 2 at the Buttrills Community Centre on North Walk, Barry. The surgery will run from 10am to 11am and no appointment is necessary.

Tax Help

TAXHELP for Older People (TOP) will hold a free income tax surgery at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1RB on Monday, April 4 from 10am until midday.

No appointment necessary. For more information, call 0845 6013321 or 01308 488066.

Friends of the Earth

THE next meeting of Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday, April 5.

Age Connects information and advice

IF you own your own home and are interested in equity release, and would like further advice and information, Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding an advice session at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, April 5 from 10am to 12pm.

No appointment is needed, just come along and chat to an independent adviser. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

A DROP-IN centre for computer advice is held at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop on Thursday mornings, 10am to 12pm and is free.

The session is run by Barry Communities First; computers and tablets are provided, but you can bring

your own. Call 01446/732385 for further information or just come along. IF you are elderly or disabled and need advice or support on repairs or home improvements, Care and Repair in the Vale help older homeowners and private tenants adapt and maintain their homes. They can give advice on grants available and also give information on reputable companies to use.

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale will provide information on Tuesday, April 5 from 10am to 12pm. No appointment necessary, call the number above for information.

400 book fundraiser

EFFORTS to set up a community library in Rhosee kick off on Saturday, April 9 with a book sale.

From picture books to true crime and cookery, this event is at Rhosee community centre in Stewart Road from 10am to 12 noon. Free entry, cakes and refreshments available. All proceeds to Rhosee community library, which will open in June.

Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival

BETWEEN May 19 and 22, Valeways will host the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival. The launch of this annual event will be held on Thursday, May 19 at 11am at the former tourist information centre, Barry Island.

Valeways invites those interested to RSVP by Tuesday, May 10 either by return email or telephone - 01446 749000.

Prior to this event walkers are welcome to take part in a short circular walk around Barry Island from 9.30am - 11am led, by Julie Morgan, Vale of Glamorgan Council tourism department.

Lunch at Age Connects

SPRING is here, so why not have a lunch at Age Connects Senior Health Shop?

Hot meals are available, cost £3.50.

Hot desserts £1.80, light snacks and breakfasts also available.

Opening hours Monday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm; Tuesday 9.30am to 1.30pm and Wednesday 10.30 to 12.30pm. Contact 01446/7312385 for further information.

Penarth Aviation Society talk: The Schneider Trophy

THIS Friday, April 1 at 7.45pm for 8pm, the Penarth Aviation Society will hear a presentation entitled 'The Schneider Trophy' given by society member David Ephraim.

In the years following the Wright Brothers flight in 1903, public interest grew at an enormous rate.

This was helped in no small way by demonstrations of their latest aircraft by such pioneers as the Wrights and Glenn Curtiss from the USA, Santos-Dumont in France and SF Cody in Britain.

Naturally with such interest the idea of holding races took hold. Foremost in these early races was the Gordon Bennett Cup.

In 1912, following a French victory in the Gordon Bennett, Jacques Schneider, a French industrialist and thrill seeker, inaugurated the race series bearing his name.

Since he was

interested in the possibility of flying boats as a means of transport, his race series was for sea-planes.

The race series was held between 1913 and 1931 with a break during World War 1. The race was won by France, USA (2), Italy (3) and Great Britain (5) with Britain retaining the trophy in 1931. The aircraft and engine involved were to evolve into one of the iconic combinations - the Spitfire and Merlin respectively.

The race probably compressed 20 years of development into six.

Why not join the society? We meet on the first Friday of the month at the Penarth

Conservative Club at 8pm. Visitors are welcome to attend a meeting and sample our hospitality prior to joining the society. For further information go to: Penarth Aviation Society's website

(www.penarthaviationsociety.co.uk) or Facebook page (facebook.com/penarthaviationsociety.co.uk).

DE

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CARDIFF WELCOMES RUNNERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD INCLUDING 'MO'

THE Cardiff World Half Marathon took place last Saturday, with thousands taking part and thousands lining the route.

Kenya's Geoffrey Kamworor won, with Britain's Mo Farah picking up the bronze medal.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

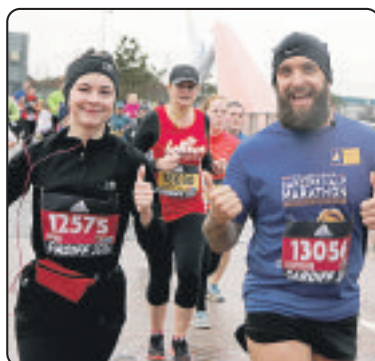
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DEPLETED COWBRIDGE FIRSTS BEATEN... BUT THE YOUTH TEAM IMPRESS IN LLANDAFF

COWBRIDGE first XV travelled to league strugglers Llandrindod Wells last Saturday.

Leaving the club at 11.30am with a severely depleted squad, the match kicked off at 2.40pm in driving rain that continued throughout the game.

With the howling wind behind them Cowbridge started well, the pack securing good ball in the first five minutes and despite the conditions it was a slick back movement that saw wing Luke James sprint over for a well taken try.

After a long period of forward pressure from the home side they were finally rewarded with a pushover try. Cowbridge responded with a Ben Wright penalty to regain the lead but Llandrindod were soon back in front with a second pushover try.

Then, with just minutes of the first half left, a loose kick from Llandrindod was collected by Richie Howson who fed centre Will Williams to sprint over from all of 40 metres. Wright expertly converted.

A minute later, following a powerful Cowbridge drive, the ball was spun out to captain Huw Lougher who burst through the defence to score a fine try under the posts. Wright again added the extras.

The half-time score was Llandrindod Wells 10, Cowbridge 22.

Unfortunately that was the end of the scoring for Cowbridge. With the weather unrelenting, the Llandrindod pack took control scoring three more pushover tries in the last 20 minutes, two of those coming when Cowbridge were down to 14 men, the game ending 25-22.

A disappointing outcome, especially as at half-time it looked as if Cowbridge might run away with the game, but with no substitutes and stamina-sapping conditions, it was always going to be difficult.

Meanwhile the Cowbridge youth BF side travelled to Llandaff North and the predicted weather forecast was indeed correct.

Despite the torrential rain the playing surface held up well. The squad of 19 contained a large contingent from the under-16 year group, all of which were representing the youth section for the first time.

Llandaff had a depleted squad so the game started with 12 players a side and despite going down to an

early try from a blindside break by the Llandaff No.9, Cowbridge ran in an impressive try from their own 22.

It was a move started by Harrison Ashby with the ball passing skillfully through several pairs of hands, leaving Jac Roberts to level the game.

The Llandaff players significantly outweighed the younger Cowbridge squad and showed their intent from the start by playing a forward orientated game.

Despite the size difference, brave chop tackling from Luke John, Matthew Keating and Mike Dobbins kept the Llandaff forwards pegged back.

Scrum half Osian John provided some great service from the breakdown under pressure from the elements and the disruptive Llandaff forwards, which gave newcomer at 10 Bevan Howells the opportunity to launch the backbone of Cowbridge, resulting in a try for full back Harrison Ashby in the corner.

Cowbridge were unlucky not to score again when a try scoring pass was deemed forward when it was clearly touched by the Llandaff defender, but Cowbridge did not change their game plan and kept the ball flowing through the hands wherever possible, sometimes attempting offloads that were not advisable in the weather conditions with winger Sean Davies coming close to scoring on a few occasions.

At half-time, a stern and sensible team talk by captain Luke John and coach Tom Cunningham focused on simplifying the plays and not to force the pass and to keep possession.

Josh Evans made way for Duncan Ace after doing some good work at the line out and in the loose. Flanker Ace got straight into the action, forcing a turnover and a penalty in quick succession.

A combination of clever chip kicks by Bev Howells and good pressure by Will Couzens in the Cowbridge pack kept Llandaff on the back foot and led to further Cowbridge tries for full back Harrison Ashby and one captain for Luke John.

Cowbridge winger Pete Anderson came agonisingly close after hooker Harry Hopkins stepped the onrushing defence and broke through from the 10 metre line of Llandaff.

Offloading to John inside the 22, only a desperate two man tackle on the try line prevented Anderson from increasing the Cowbridge lead.

The conditions deteriorated, as did the structure of the game, mainly due to very wet ball and many of the Cowbridge team playing with new team mates for the first time.

Llandaff made most of the wind advantage by keeping Cowbridge pinned down in their own 22 for a spell. A line out 10 metres out led to a pushover try from the Llandaff pack.

With the scores at 25-10 to Cowbridge, coach Tom Cunningham made the brave decision, after captain John had been forced to leave the field with a shoulder injury, to introduce all the substitutes.

Wingers Angus James and Sam Black both made an impact soon after coming on as the teams traded tries, the game finishing Cowbridge 35, Llandaff 15.

A special mention to under-16 players Bevan Howells, James Harrison, Jac Roberts, Harrison Ashby, Angus James and Sam Black who all stepped up under difficult conditions to contribute to the Cowbridge win.

This Saturday, the firsts travel to St Albans while the youth are scheduled to play Glamorgan Wanderers away. The following Saturday the firsts are home to Taffs Well.

The youth team are in the semi-final of the National Youth Cup - a fantastic achievement. The game is being played at the Llandarcy Academy, kicking off at 4pm, and there is a possibility that the firsts game will kick off earlier than the usual 2.30pm so supporters can travel to watch the youth - full details next week.

RV/RK/RH

The Barry and District Ladies Skittle League

LATEST results from the Barry and District Ladies Skittle League for week commencing March 14:

First division: Family Affair (J Walden 30) 2611, SV Gals (J Richards 27) 250; Family and Friends (J Phillips 25) 237, Special Angels (C Thomas 25) 219; Castle Bandits (C Evans 28) 262, Space Finders (D Cleaver 27) 263; Cigar Ladies (L Webb 36) 318, Coppers (M Parsons 31) 309; Bakers Dozen (M Weston 25) 237, Allsorts (R Dawee 28) 264; Barry Stars (M Richards 38) 318, Bobby's Girls (L Evans 36) 288; Breakaways (C Smith 31) 284, Colcot Ladies (S Howcroft 30) 290.

Second division: Clickies (N Harney 32) 280, Pila Palas (M Barnett, J Griffiths 30) 293; Red Admiral (J Jones 27) 241, Cad Con Fillies (T Clements, S

Chilcott 24) 233; After Eights (D Goodard 35) 298, Castaways (J Tobin 28) 276; Rhooose Starlights (K Bryan 27) 252, Vixens (M Marks 28) 246; Little Devils (T Jones 22) 211, Merry Makers (R Collins, A Pope 22) 219; SV Lights (E Andrews 29) 262, Witchill Widows (C Gregory, S Hurn 28) 251.

Third division: Roller Coasters (J Marriott 28) 249, Hill Billies (J Lonas 24) 214; Friends and Neighbours (R Page 29) 262, Persuaders (K Kemp 23) 201; Fallen Angels (T Lawrence 25) 247, Westenders (T Lambeth 29) 250; La Belles (S Curtis 31) 314, SV Ladies (K Lacey 35) 296; Twilights (A Campbell 22) 184, Etcetera (K Barton 25) 203.

Fourth division: Witches (L Carey 23) 239, Guardian Angels (S Aston 24) 212; Living On A Spare (M Pring 33) 316, Witchill Wanderers (W Peplow 33) 229;

Socialites (F Nolan 33) 259, Rebels (S Oram 31) 284; Liberals (F Williams, S Boyd 28) 259, Uptown Girls (J Marsh 24) 240; Hell Raisers (C Davies 29) 258, Odd Bods (T Ceriani 22) 173; Nite Outers (L Newman 26) 197, Aristocats (S Bebb 21) 205.

Results for March 7:
Fourth division: Guardian Angels (I Overton 30) 213, Optimists (E Playle, S Bond 24) 202; Challengers (M Griffiths 33) 308, Living On A Spare (C McLaggon 32) 266; Witchill Wanderers (C Harrison 33) 280, Socialites (P Starr 32) 292; Rebels (C Carter 22) 202, Liberals (S Boyd 21) 156; Uptown Girls (J Marsh 27) 234, Off The Rails (L Stephenson 25) 220; Odd Bods (T Ceriani 27) 239, Witches (P Cookson 29) 278; Aristocats (P Dasncey 25) 241, Hell Raisers (B Nugent 25) 213.

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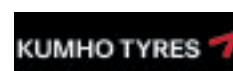
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The Mail on Sunday winning team.

Brynhill GC welcome their winning team!

THE 'Old Record Club' resumed their monthly appearance at Brynhill Golf Club on Sunday, March 27.

There was a large turn out as the Brynhill Mail on Sunday national winners were presented with their trophies.

The team won in grand style in Spain in November 2015 and Brynhill honoured their success with the presentation, including a beautiful cake especially made for them by the president Keith Atkinson's daughter-in-law, Laura Atkinson.

The vice captain Mr. Mike

Underdown introduced the evening's proceedings.

The captain, Mr. Matthew Thomas, and the president presented the trophies to Wayne Adams, the captain of the winning team, who responded by thanking everyone for their support and in coming to the presentation night, in particular Jo Kirkpatrick for all the press coverage and raffles, Roger North Long and partner, Chris James, the president, vice captain, senior and ladies section, Simmon and Debbie Pringle, and all the members who donated their winnings from presentation night.

He added that the support from

the members who had followed all the knock-out matches had been really appreciated by the team, as it probably improved their game by another 10 per cent.

Mr. Peter Hayman, the retired president, was always there supporting the team and woe betide them if they made a bad shot! Wayne thanked all those who followed them to Spain.

He said that the Mail on Sunday officials commented on how the team were a credit to Brynhill Golf Club, especially in the way they presented themselves - well done team!

JK

THE VALE FOOTBALL LEAGUE ROUND-UP

IN the game of the day Premier Division leaders St Athan moved seven points clear with a 1-0 victory over second place Wenvoe Arms at Station Road.

Wenvoe have a game in hand in second place, while defending champions Cardiff Airport sit 10 points off top but do have three

games in hand. Airport edged out Barry Athletic 3-2 at the Athletic Ground to leap frog them into third.

Elsewhere in the Premier Division, Penarth held AFC Rhose to a scoreless draw, while Cowbridge Town downed Island Marine 3-1 at Maslin Park.

The result of the SP Construction vs Masons Moving Group was still unknown as of writing.

In the First Division, the big clash saw leaders Sully Sports triumph 4-2 over Barry Belgrade - the result sees Belgrade drop to seventh in an increasingly tight league, however they sit 12 points off top with a mammoth six games in hand.

Sully stay four points ahead of Cogan who kept pace with the leaders with a 4-1 win over Cadoxton Athletic. Cogan, however, have

three games in hand over Sully.

Elsewhere Tynwydd's impressive winning run hit a blip as they were held 0-0 by AFC Rhose B.

The game was overshadowed by an unfortunate injury to Lloyd Bruce - the Vale league clubs wish him well in his recovery.

Cadoxton Barry notched a 3-2 win over Cardiff Airport B and Glenbrook were successful by the same scoreline against FC Pumas.

Finally, in the First Division, Vale United went third after they complete outclassed BV, as they more than routed the bottom side, beating them by an incredible 15-0.

Only three games took place in the Second Division as St Athan B made it three games without defeat with a 3-2 win over Penarth Town.

Barry Albion held third place Knap FC 3-3 and Dockers closed the gap on Barry Athletic B at the top to just two points with a 2-0 win over FC Pumas B as the title race intensified.

On Saturday, the game of the day is in the First Division with Vale United having their 10 game unbeaten streak in the league put to the test by second place Cogan.

HD

AS we near the start of the British tennis season, a campaign has been launched by a voluntary tennis organisation, urging councils across Wales to make sure that public courts are accessible to everyone wanting to play the sport.

Tennis Connect Wales is calling on local authorities to commit to opening public tennis courts daily between the months of April and October, and is asking fans of the sport to join its #GatesOpen4All campaign by sharing their experiences of public tennis courts in Wales via social media, using the hashtag.

Steve Milne, founder of Tennis Connect Wales, said: "Not everyone lives near, or can afford, a private tennis club and for many people in Wales a court at their local park or leisure centre is the only way they can play the sport.

"But a lot of the time you'll find that the gates to these courts are locked. It defeats the purpose of having them there in the first place.

"In Wales we're not blessed with the greatest weather and, with a shortage of decent indoor tennis facilities too, it's important to make the most of any good weather we do get."

Tennis Connect Wales is also keen to hear from people with any other issues that prevent them playing tennis locally. For some people it may be that they don't have a nearby public court at all; for others it may be that the playing fee is too high. Perhaps the courts just haven't been maintained and are unsafe.

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) has identified an increase in 'parks' tennis as a key factor for the future growth of the sport in the UK but, to date, there's little sign of change in non-traditional tennis areas like the south Wales Valleys or more rural parts of north Wales.

"If you're looking to grow parks tennis then surely your first priority is to make sure the courts are open, and stay open," says Steve Milne. "Unless community facilities are made available to everyone, the next generation of Welsh tennis players may never get to realise their potential."

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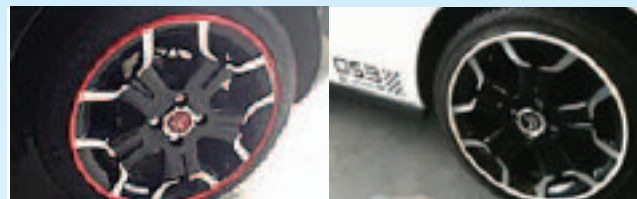
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Atrocious conditions at local point-to-point meeting

In my 50 years of reporting on the Welsh point-to-point scene, I don't think I have ever endured such atrocious conditions like those that prevailed at Uplands Farm, Ystradowen last Saturday.

Heavy showers and a gale force wind that blew away bookmaker James Lovell's big betting stand umbrella had racegoers dashing to their cars and anywhere else that could give them some respite.

And the going, which could have been described as good at the start of the day, changed to heavy as the afternoon went on.

The happiest person on the course was probably 21-year-old Bradley Gibbs who repeated his hat-trick of last year when winning the Glamorgan Hunt Club Members Conditions Race on See U Again Son, the Mixed Open Race on My Coranna and the Restricted Race on C Me In Oz.

See U Again Son, like My Coranna, is owned by Bradley's girlfriend Claire Sheriff and is qualified with the Glamorgan Hunt.

The seven-year-old bay gelding led three fences from home to score by three lengths from Bob The Butcher.

The seven-year-old mare My Coranna, who like See U Again Son is trained by Bradley's father David Gibbs, made it three wins in a row when finishing eight lengths ahead of the pacemaking Sheriff Hutton and Bradley's third win came when Rob and Julie McClean's ex-Irish C

Me In Oz got the better of Gardiners Hill in the Restricted.

C Me In Oz, which had finished runner-up in his previous two races won by two lengths and is trained by Maesteg's Simon Jones.

The first leg of a Tom David double was initiated when Keith James' eight-year-old chestnut gelding Itchyme/mscratch easily took the opening Glamorgan Hunt.

Members, Subscribers & Farmers Race coming home an official nine lengths ahead of the Bradley Gibbs partnered Thomas Junior, so easily that the winning connections said they planned to run him again at Llydstep on Easter Monday.

National Hunt trainer Tim Vaughan, who trains just a couple of miles away from the course at Aberthaw, was there to see his Hawkhill trail in last of the four runners after being prominent throughout most of the race.

However, Tim had plenty to smile about later in the day when he heard that his Belize had carried a hefty top weight of 11st 12lbs to victory at Newton Abbot when beating the bottom weighted Tresor De La Vie, who had just 10 stone to carry by 24 lengths.

Its A Mistake, which gave Tom his second winner in the Seven-Year-Olds And Over Open Maiden Race when finishing five lengths ahead of An Cor, had fallen in the lead at the second last fence in his previous race won by WithOutTheFavourite at the Beaufort Hunt.

But this time the nine-year-old bay

gelding, in a handy position throughout, made no mistake and Sirrel Griffiths, of Norton's Coin fame, was there to see his son Martyn, who owns and trains the horse, cheer home his winner.

Tom's younger brother Evan, aged 23, took the Four, Five And Six Year-Olds Open Maiden Race on the best turned out Live For Today, a first time winner between-the-flags for owner David Bond.

A former reject of National Hunt trainer Dai Burchell, this five-year-old bay gelding by Alflora, was thought to be "untraceable".

However, trainer Nick Williams, who gave up race-riding at the end of last season, said: "We have been riding him on the sands at Ogmore by Sea and it has worked wonders and he now appears to have got over his difficulties."

Thanks must go to the seven bookmakers who braved the conditions, thus ensuring that punters could back their fancies, and with all six races being won by well fancied horses, it was probably a day they won't forget for more reasons than one.

TIM'S EASTER MONDAY DOUBLE
Aberthaw's Tim Vaughan had a nice little double at Market Rasen on Easter Monday when his Man Of God won the Conditional Jockeys' Handicap hurdle and 40 minutes or so later his Debec took the Maiden Open NH Flat Race.

The former was ridden by D G Noonan and the latter by Noel Fehily and both horses were well backed.

BRIAN LEE

Scorpions land their first win of the season

GOOD Friday was a great Friday for South Wales Scorpions after earning their first win of the season, beating Oxford 38-20 at Iflley Road after dominating the second half.

It was a big team effort from the Welsh with Dai Evans leading the way with two tries and was at least twice unlucky not to get a hat-trick.

The win was on the cards. Oxford were playing their last match at Iflley Road after being there since inception in 2013. And the first team to play there was South Wales Scorpions, who that time scraped a 22-20 win.

But this performance was far more convincing with new Scorpions head coach Phil Carleton building a regime that installs confidence in the whole club.

The sides fought out an even first 10 minutes where forward passes at each end denied opportunities for opening tries Oxford's came after a good break from Sean Morris and it was some good Scorpions defending that forced him into a desperate pass.

Scorpions took the lead on 13 minutes when, following a penalty, Aiden Hema barged his way under the sticks and Emanuelli converted.

They soon got the second try after Dai Evans intercepted a loose

pass and no-one could catch the flying winger as he ran 90 metres to score in the corner. Emanuelli missed the kick.

A dropped ball from kick-off gave Oxford the chance for a try. Plenty of times in the last couple of years Scorpions would have conceded, but again were solid in what was a risky set.

Scorpions carried on attacking well but a third try was denied after a pass to Evans, who was clear, bounced forward. Oxford struck back from the scrum. Andy Hoggins made the break leading to Morris setting up Connor Hughes in the corner, but failing to convert his own try.

Oxford scored again from their next play after a good move saw Aaron Dobek go in under the sticks. Hughes converted to level things at 10-10. Christiana Roets had the opportunity to put Scorpions in the lead at the break but was stopped just metres from the line on the last tackle of a set as the clock approached 40.

The first half may have deservedly been even but there was only ever one winner after the break.

Less than five minutes into the second half, a good set of passes saw Jordan Sheridan dive over. Emanuelli converted.

The Scorpions added a quick second when Christiana Roets took advantage of a repeat set

to barge over with Emanuelli again adding the extras.

Then, following two penalties, Evans walked over in the corner for Scorpions' fifth try, making it 28-10 on 53 minutes.

Oxford struck back to give them hope. Andy Hoggins did well to run through and ground but the kick went wide, still leaving them 14 points short.

But they couldn't keep up the momentum - instead their poor passing continued to let them down.

A Scorpions scrum after a chuck forward gave Greg Wilde the chance to sprint to the line and Emanuelli added the extras.

Oxford weren't making any opportunities count. A pass to Errol Carter flew into touch and after panicking, criminally a penalty kick to touch failed to reach the sideline.

Danny Allen did get another score back from close range after receiving from Josh Nathaniel at dummy half.

The conversion was drop kicked over for quickness by Hughes but 14 points down in the last two minutes was just too much for them.

It was left to Yannic Parker to score in the corner for the final points of the game to wrap up a deserved win for south Wales' only professional rugby league side.

IG

The Barry and District league tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

West End 5, Rhooose Social 10; Cadoxton Cons 10, West End Runaways 5; Wyndham Cons 5, Liberals 10.

League table: Wyndham Cons 157, West End 151, Liberals 149, Rhooose Social 147, West End Runaways 146, Cadoxton Cons 138, Moors Boys 132.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Rugby Club 3, Allsorts 4; Rhooose Social A 6, Liberals C 1; Rhooose Social B 4, Rhooosters 3; West End D 5, King William XII 2.

League table: Sea View B 99.5, West End D 86, Rugby Club 82.5, Barries Boys 76, King William XII 73.5, Rhooose Social A 72, Rhooose Social B 71.5, West End C 71, Allsorts 69.5, Slammers 65, Rhooosters 61, Liberals A 58, Liberals C 56.5, Rhooose Social C 53, Cambrian Flyers 48.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Market Street C 2, Penarth Cons B 3; Harbour B 4, Rhooose Social B 1; Wyndham Cons A 4, West End C 1; Cadoxton Cons Z 3, Rhooose Social C 2; Caddy Allstars 2, Savoy A 3.

League table: Harbour B 86, Savoy A 85, Cadoxton Cons B 71, Wyndham Cons A 66, West End C 60, *Cadoxton Cons Z 50, Rhooose Social B 41, Rhooose Social C 40, Caddy Allstars 39,

Penarth Cons B 39, Market Street C 34.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Sully Sports A 1, Savoy B 4; Wyndham Cons C 1, Penarth Cons A 4; West End B 0, Liberators 5; Market Street B 3, Cadoxton Cons A 2; West End A 1, Services Social B 4.

League table:

Services Social B 78, Liberators 72, Penarth Cons A 71, Market Street B 68, Savoy B 68, Wyndham Cons C 61, Cadoxton Cons A 53, West End A 47, Sully Sports A 41, West End B 34, Wyndham Cons D 32 (* = points deducted).

All league & cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

St Athan FC go clear at the top

ST ATHAN moved seven points clear with a magnificent team performance and come away from second place Wenvoe with a 1-0 triumph.

Jordan Mortimore headed the eventual winner before the break as Saints put in a rearguard performance to be proud of with keeper Paul Lucas in astounding form.

Wenvoe started the day four points behind of leaders Saints with a game in hand and knew anything other than a win could be disastrous.

St Athan, however, knew the importance of the fixture as they start a run of games that also sees them play Cardiff Airport twice.

Wenvoe started brightly and looked to move the ball around but Saints were organised and well drilled and the home struggled to break them down.

Wenvoe registered an early shot on goal and Paul Lucas was called on to make an outstanding low save to his right after a rasping strike.

Wenvoe continued to probe and once again Lucas was called upon to produce a fine stop following a deflected effort.

Up the other end, good work from Sean Flynn saw tireless Sean Wilkin with an effort off target.

Still Wenvoe came at St Athan, but Saints stood firm in defence, frustrating their opponents.

Then came the breakthrough. Saints won a corner, Reece Lewis exquisite delivery saw Jordan Mortimore rise to head the ball in for his 40th goal of the season, a fine achievement for the Saints captain.

St Athan went in at the break in the lead but knew Wenvoe would come out of the traps

quickly in the second half.

The home side did just that and when they did finally find a hole in the Saints defence they found Lucas in exceptional form as he produced another excellent save.

Saints' rearguard action was outstanding and the frustration boiled out of Wenvoe.

But then a Wenvoe lifeline; quick feet in the area saw their forward brought down and a penalty awarded, but nothing was beating Lucas and the finest of fingertips saw the ball rebound off the post. Saints breathed again.

Wenvoe threw everything at St Athan now and everything was blocked, tackled or cleared away.

The Saints back four was impenetrable, their midfield working non stop to get a foot in - to a man, Saints worked for each other.

Watkins and Flynn combined to release Wilkins, and time stood still as Wilkins raced at the keeper but his left foot effort narrowly wide.

Ball after ball into the Saints box was repelled and finally the referee's whistled signalled the end of a pulsating

encounter.

St Athan now sit seven points clear atop of the Premier Division - Wenvoe have a game in hand in second place, while third place Cardiff Airport sit 10 points off Saints but do have three games in hand.

What a team performance from St Athan - they gave everything and got the three points they thoroughly deserved.

St Athan: Lucas, Goodwin, L.Lewis, Mortimore, Humphreys, Laing, Ashton, R.Lewis, Austin, Flynn, Wilkin. Substitutes - Watkins, Pugh.

Meanwhile, the seconds notched a fine 3-2 win over Penarth B, the impressive Josh Morgan once again getting on the scoresheet with a brace and Shane Campbell popped up and got the winner.

We'd like to thank those who braved the rain to support us and our sponsors, Owens Motor Services, Llandow, Diving & Marine Engineering, Green Future Landscaping, Llantwit Valet & Car Wash and both the Three Horseshoes & The Four Bells pubs in St Athan.

HD

BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for March 22:

1st Nike Best & Noelle Bond 63.54%; 2nd Peter Millar & Jane Brook 56.25%; 3rd Kay Dyer & Sean Macdougall 53.65%. Dave Reed and Bryn Gough won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively players, inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address.

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Lessons learned as under-strength Wales warm up for European Championships

AS Wales shape up for their first international tournament in 58 years (words that are still exciting to write even now) as they travel to France for the European Championships, it has come against a backdrop of contract negotiations with Chris Coleman (out of contract after the tournament) being unresolved, Coleman placing a ban on the wives and girlfriends of players being in the same hotel as them at least until after the group stages, and speculation on the future availability of Gareth Bale – the sort of background gossip and drama that so often unfolds in the world of Welsh rugby rather than football.

But then that is the price of success – greater scrutiny, heightened expectations, all things that this Wales team, fresh from making history, will no doubt be savouring as an after-effect of their achievements. They were preparing for a friendly double-header with Northern Ireland on Thursday at the Cardiff City Stadium, and then an away encounter with Ukraine on Monday, both opposition teams having impressively qualified for the Euros and both sure to provide stern opposition for a Welsh team missing some of the key ingredients of their own qualifying success through injury and unavailability.

In front of a reasonable crowd of just under 22,000 on Thursday (a figure less than half of the number of fans who applied for tickets to the Euros however), came the first test in Michael O'Neill's Northern Ireland. Games between the countries in recent times have always been tight affairs, and O'Neill's men, whose qualification success was all the more impressive for their lack of a star name, promised to give Wales a tough work-out in a game that had a derby feel.

Certainly the opening half of the game had that edge, the wet weather not lending itself to a particularly graceful game, but one that saw plenty of ball for both teams, the Northern Irish looking

by GARETH JAMIESON

by far the more comfortable, and Wales lacking the penetration needed to cause the opposition much distress, their 4-5-1 formation a chance to test out plan B.

It seemed like it would be more of the same in the second half as conditions failed to improve, Wales' lack of urgency and execution giving Northern Ireland little trouble, the team looking compact and well-organised.

The game turned on the hour mark as failure to clear at a corner allowed Craig Cathcart to strike for the visitors, leaving a below-par Welsh team to battle their way back.

The strike seemed to do the trick as Wales looked far more lively in this final third of the match, and pushed for an equaliser, seemingly to no avail. When it seemed like the Northern Irish were to hold out for their first away friendly win in over a decade, Wales caught a stroke of luck when Gareth McAuley upended Simon Church in the penalty area.

Church dusted himself down and dispatched the spot kick to the relief and celebrations of the home fans, and Wales could have gone on to take what would have been an undeserved win with a few half chances in injury time.

Coleman was pleased with the performance, saying that the side could take away "lots of positives" from the game. However, privately he would have to have been disappointed with some of the performances from players in the first hour whose places on the plane to France are anything but assured.

It was then onto the Ukraine on Monday, where Coleman made six changes from the team that lined up on Thursday, reverting to the 5-3-2 formation that had served so well in the qualifiers, and it seemed to do the trick as Coleman's team started the brighter, albeit again lacking the cutting edge that similarly had eluded them in Cardiff.

It seemed like history repeating, however, when the Welsh defence failed to track from a free-kick and Yarmolenko benefited,

striking from close range to give the Ukraine the lead, arguably against the run of play. The first half fizzled out with no change in the score, but the second half saw Wales rejuvenated and showing a greater sense of purpose.

The usual friendly tradition of numerous substitutions threatened to disrupt Wales' flow against opposition now happy to sit back and counter-attack, but instead it served to galvanise the team.

Tom Bradshaw (making his debut) and Sam Vokes came off the bench and provided a cutting edge that was lacking before, the two forwards linking well and having the best opportunities to level the game.

It wasn't to be, however, and Wales found themselves having lost despite having dominated the stats in terms of shots and possession.

The next time the squad meet up it will be the 23 players selected by Coleman to represent the country at the European Championships, and these two fixtures provided a great opportunity to look at some of the fringe players hoping to make up that squad. Some players impressed, some failed to grab the opportunity with both hands (Tom Lawrence in particular disappointing over the two matches), but there were positives to take from the games.

The overwhelming lesson is that without our star players we are a different team, but only the most one-eyed fan would have disagreed with that prior to these matches. What we showed was that we are set-up superbly, are difficult to break down and can retain possession with ease; what the likes of Bale, Ramsey and Robson-Kanu provide is that missing cutting edge, that burst of pace or bit of skill to open the opposition up. The fact that the only goal we scored in the two games was from the penalty is evidence, if any were needed, of this.

With just over two months until Wales kick off their Euro 2016 campaign in Bordeaux against Slovakia, the return of these players will give the team a much-needed boost and that x-factor that is the difference between competing and winning. With the team on song, then there is no-one we need fear – bring on the Euros!

Dinas on the wrong end of a five goal thriller

DINAS POWYS FC started well in this game with Cwmbran Celtic, winning an early free kick and a couple of throw-ins before the visitors started pressing, winning a corner from which Chris Ham shot over the bar.

Simon Prangle then got a shot away bringing a save from James Curtin for another Celtic corner.

Rhys Palmer then put in a strong run for Dinas down the left wing but his cross was cut out by the Celtic defence.

Curtin was again called into action to punch a corner clear.

Sam Adamson was having a fine game for Dinas at right back keeping the powerful Celtic players at bay. However, a deep cross from the right wing was met by Ham and his effort was only just wide.

With 30 minutes gone, the visitors got the opener from a Ham corner, Josh Bull scoring off the underside of the cross-bar.

At this stage the heavens opened, making conditions very

difficult, but Dinas kept their concentration and were soon level, Scott Muir glancing a header home from an Adam Johns cross.

Lloyd Kinsella then picked the ball up for Celtic and hit an unstoppable shot from 30 yards to give the visitors the lead again.

In the slippery conditions Curtin dived on a ball on the edge of his area but it slipped from his grasp leaving Bull an easy tap in for 3-1.

In the final minute of the half James Marr pulled one back for Dinas, heading home a James Bloxham free kick.

The visitors pressed early in the second half and Curtin had to punch a corner over his cross bar.

Dinas started playing to their strengths, Johns forcing a good save from Lewis Watkins and after Johns was fouled on the edge of the Celtic box, Nicky Bruce hit a fine free kick just wide of Watkins right post.

The visitors made the first substitution, Andrew Larcambe making way for Lee Penney.

Bruce fired in another free kick from the halfway line which Watkins took at full stretch.

The home side then rang the changes, Rhys Palmer being replaced by Myles Case with 12 minutes remaining.

Celtic won two further corners but couldn't add to their score and Dinas were looking the more likely to level at this stage, good work from Case put Johns in but his effort was too high.

Dinas made their final substitution with four minutes remaining, Muir making way for Courtney Aviet.

Play was then held up for a while as James Marr appeared to be elbowed in the eye but was okay to see out the final couple of minutes after treatment.

Squad: 1 James Curtin, 2 Sam Adamson, 3 Mamadu Bangaroso, 4 James Bloxham, 5 Paul Caulfield, 6 Nicky Bruce, 7 James Marr (1), 8 Kieron James (c), 9 Adam Johns, 10 Scott Muir (1), 11 Rhys Palmer, 12 Myles Case, 14 Rhys Harlin, 15 Courtney Aviet.

Dinas now have five consecutive home games where they must endeavour to accrue points, starting with the visit of Llanelli Town on Saturday, April 9, 2.30pm kick off. **PK**

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

ON Tuesday March 22, it was the penultimate evening of league darts.

The Edmondson B, even with still one game to go, achieved enough points by beating the Edmondson A 6-3 to become this year's league champions.

However, the runner-up slot is still undecided.

The second-placed Highwayman Inn beat the Farmers B (H&H) 7-2 but Llanharry closed the gap down to two points by winning 8-1 against the Old Post Ladies.

The Six Bells Inn, this season's newcomer, ended their league programme by being narrowly defeated 4-5 against the Edmondson C.

The Farmers Arms did not have a game.

Present league standings are:
Edmondson B (97 points), Highwayman Inn (83), Llanharry (81), Six Bells Inn (75), Farmers Arms (68), Edmondson A (66), Edmondson C (64), Farmers B (H&H) (56) and Old Post Ladies (22).

Next Tuesday, April 5, the Llanharry Working Men's Club will host the men's single knockout competition.

The evening of darts starts at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk

PJT

Barry men's skittle league

DIVISION 1: Barry

Park 'B' (P.Gersnenson 32) 286, BP Breakaways (P. Gardner, D.A.Coombes 31) 291; Blue Monkey (D.Cook 29) 267, The Merryfryns (L. Dodgson 27) 286; Bunker Boys (S.Hobbs 28) 291, Barry Park 'B' (B.Hopkins 28) 249; Cavaliers (S.Hatcher 29) 283, Ex-servicemen (D.Stephens 32) 291; Geest (D.Williams 30) 284, Colcot Boys (T.Sherrin 32) 266; Mighty Dockers (K.Enticott 26) 262, Blue Monkey (D.McCarthy 24) 278; Sea View (D.Britton 30) 302, Bunker Boys (B.Hewitson 32) 304; The Hairy Lemons (S.Guely 33) 289, Mighty Dockers (K.Enticott 26) 260.

Division 2: Abercree (M.Watts 31) 268, Tynewydd Lads (S.Sluman 30) 287; Buffs Exiles (A.Kemp 27) 253, Willie Wombles (E.Draisey 32) 292; Cannon Balls (D.Pike, T.Sparks 29) 301, Posties (J. Galsworthy, R.Harding, M.Churchill 30) 306; 'H' Bells (B.Whitlock, B.Webb 28) 291, The Royalists (M.Roberts 31) 279; Park Lads (M.Whyman, D.Lambert 26) 251, Tynny Fliers (G.Hobbs 25) 201; Park Rangers (S.Dite 28) 263, Abercree (P.Fified 28) 258.

Division 3: Billy Whizz (M.Ingram 31) 285, Castle Boys (D.Woodham 30) 287; British Rail (K.Brown 29) 290, Alternatives (A.Stafford 29) 268; C.U.D (B.Saif 27) 246, Mariner Vikings (D.Burrows 26) 232; Castle Boys (J. Adams 27) 256, Billy Bluebirds (R.Jones 30) 280; West End Fliers (R.Green 27) 260, Billy Whizz (S.Coombs, M.Ingram 26) 260.

HR



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If you have any concerns or would like to raise any issues with George, please contact him on 07958 790 722 or george.jabbour@welshconservatives.com



George Jabbour with Welsh MP and Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Stephen Crabb.



Jabbour with Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns, and Minister for Defence Procurement, Philip Dunne, visiting AMSS, a local business with a real success story that exports products around the globe.



Candidate with Welsh Conservative Leader, Andrew RT Davies

This 4-page wrap has been funded by voluntary donations to Bridgend Conservatives.

GEORGE JABBOUR: Bridgend and Porthcawl's Hope for Change



George will always work very hard for the local area



JABBOUR CAMPAIGNS FOR SAFER AND BETTER FUNDED NHS



MORE MONEY FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

George Jabbour is campaigning for more money for schools in Bridgend and Porthcawl. George said: "As a school governor, I am fighting to fund schools directly. By cutting the red tape, schools the size of Porthcawl Comprehensive or Bryntirion Comprehensive could receive hundreds of thousands more pounds in additional funding."

Keep up to date with local news:
[fb.com/georgeconservatives](https://www.facebook.com/georgeconservatives) & www.georgejabbour.co.uk



Candidate fights for the future of Further Education at Bridgend College



George, who is currently learning Welsh, is passionate about promoting the language

George enjoys taking part in community events



Promoted by Kenneth Watts on behalf of George Jabbour, both of Seagulls, Bryneglwys Avenue, Porthcawl, CF36 5NN.
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